

Walden School Middle School News

THINK MORE SNOW!

March 17th, 2008

Points of Interest:

Youth Town Meeting is April 8th.
We need parent drivers, please call
Ms. Piscitelli to volunteer to drive
and join us.

**April 1st is a half day– NOT April
8th.**

Eighth Grade Information:

- **Danville Allied Arts for eighth graders begins March 10 and will continue until April 25**

**Shadowing occurs for eighth graders
in March:**

**March 20th for Danville Cabot, St.
Johnsbury, Lyndon Institute
Thank you parent drivers!**

ATTENTION Parents:

**The district is forming a search
committee for a new superintendent
since John Bacon will be leaving at
the end of this year. We are seeking
a parent representative and a com-
munity representative from Walden
to be on the committee. Please let
Martha Dubuque know if you are
interested.**



8th Grade Greek Press Conference



~Social Studies~ ~7th grade~ ~Literacy~

Literacy and Social Studies: An amended week of learning due to Burke and the Early Release. This week students will tackle a reflection on the writing process, read the Junior Great Books; The Best of Friends and begin to discuss the hot topic of “bullying”. Our next class read aloud is the book, The Revealers, written by Vermont author, Doug Wilhelm. The book targets the three types of people involved in bullying; **the bystander, the person being bullied and the bully**. We will discuss in-depth the role each person can play to stop bullying and what can be done for preventive measures in a school. I look forward to reading this book with the class.

In social studies students have completed their third unit of the year and are preparing for our next, Westward Expansion. They will use another Junior Great books, entitled, Wide Open Spaces and read non-fiction accounts of the pioneers settling the wild west. Students will also discover the California Gold Rush and how Texas became a state. They will study the significance of the Oregon Trail and what the early pioneers went through just to survive.

~Math~ ~7th grade~ ~Science~

Math: Students are still working to complete their portfolios this week by making revisions to problems previously completed. Students are still working on geometry ideas about surface area and volume. We will have another quiz on Wednesday. “Barn Storm” revisions will be a focus this week– surface area!

The homework this week for the algebra group will be in the algebra book and will vary based on individual student pacing and where students are starting, check your child’s planner. The rest of the class will have ACE homework or NECAP problems every night. The expectation is that they should work 20-30 minutes a night on their math homework. I am available in homework club for questions students have AFTER they have attempted the work and shown their thinking on their own.

See your child’s planner for specific homework each night.

Science: Students are continuing learning the details of digestion. Students are using hands-on labs to learn about nutrients– sugar, starch and protein. We will read about nutrients, take notes and create skits about each. We will work on chemistry skills and lab procedures.

The homework will be varied and will be based on differentiation for student needs including extensions into other content areas.

~Social Studies~ ~8th grade~ ~Literacy~

Literacy and Social Studies: An amended week of learning due to Burke and the Early Release. Students will craft their final response to the last non-fiction writing prompt of the social studies unit. They will apply higher-level thinking skills and show their knowledge based on the influence of Greek Philosophy and the Arts. The Press Conference was a success, most students met the standard and performed to the best of their ability. I was a little disappointed that students left this major assignment until the bitter end when given over three weeks to design their presentation. It showed who researched their figures through their questions and answers. This was a major assessment for the unit as stated, and grades are based on how well students met the criteria for success.

Next we will explore Roman History and make connections on how the Greeks influenced the Roman culture. Mr. Colosa will visit the class this week for his annual Roman coin presentation. Please check your child's homework planner to help balance the responsibilities of middle school student. Thank you to all parents and mentors who came to support the Press Conference.

~Math~ ~8th grade~ ~Science~

Math: Students are working in our book "Shapes and Space". We are working on volume and areas of prisms and cylinders. We will take a quiz on Friday. The final draft of "Fair Game" is due Friday.

The homework this week will be by lesson in the "Shapes and Space" book and will vary based on class pacing and where students are starting, check your child's planner. The expectation is that they should work 20-30 minutes a night on their math homework.

Science:

Students are continuing learning the details of digestion. Students are using hands-on labs to learn about nutrients— sugar, starch and protein. We will read about nutrients, take notes and create skits about each. We will work on chemistry skills and lab procedures.

Homework will be based on individual student interest, needs and extensions from class. All homework will be written in the planner.