

NBFA NEWSLETTER

7th & 8th Grade Team

Laura O-Shaughnessy, Lisa O'Marra, Andrew Spears, Jason Feeney, Joseph Brigante, Kim Gibbs, and Taylor Tema

November 2016 Newsletter

English/Language Arts

Currently, students are completing their unit on Citizenship. Most have completed their research and are writing their speeches. Both seventh and eighth grade are reading their respective novels (*Animal Farm* for 8th grade and *The Giver* for 7th grade) which will be completed within the next two weeks. During the week of Nov. 14, the students will be having a Skype session with a native Ukrainian who lived during the Cold War. He will be discussing the history and culture which has a connection to the novel *Animal Farm*.

Social Studies

The seventh and eighth grade students began the year learning about the Constitution and Bill of Rights. This was part of the interdisciplinary unit of Citizenship. After their study on these two topics the students began learning about the presidential election; how the president is elected, who can vote and what is the Electoral College. The students worked collaboratively in groups, watched the presidential debates, played a "Preamble" matching game, debated landmark Supreme Court cases on the Bill of Rights and created the ideal president. The students have been working really hard on their Interdisciplinary projects. I cannot wait to see the final product!

Science

Currently, students are completing their unit on Climate Change, Human Impact, and Climate Change Repercussions. Their final project asks students to identify an area of human impact and to create an action plan to address the impact. This project is part of their quarter one interdisciplinary project. The project is due November 8, 2016. After this project, students will continue with the topic of climate change and asking questions. The Next Generation Science Standards outline several practices that students should be able to master by the end of 8th grade; asking questions is one of these practices. The quarter ends on November 18th. Second quarter, 7th grade students will be studying Living Things, Cells, and The Human Body while 8th grade students will be studying Genetics and The Human Reproductive System.

Math

Currently, the 7th grade is continuing with Ratios and Proportions. The focus at the moment is finding scale factor. In 8th grade, our main focus is Translations of Shapes. Rotation has also been covered in this unit and will continue. In addition, students will utilize skills already gained in Math as part of their Citizenship Project by adding graphs and designs.

Health/ Physical Education

Currently, students are focusing on the various aspects of social health. We just completed our first assessment; and are moving onto other topics relating to social health such as domestic violence and family relationships. On November 15th, the Mandela homeroom is going to Merton house in Bridgeport with connection to our homeroom community service project. The permission slip should have already been sent home to you. Please make sure your child brings in the signed slip by the designated date so that we have confirmation over whether or not your child is allowed to go on the trip. As for Physical Education, students are enjoying our weekly trips to the YMCA. We are currently working on soccer and fitness activities (8th grade will be assessed on the pacer test, curl-ups, push-ups, and flexibility). If you ever have any questions or concerns with either Health or PE, please do not hesitate to contact me!

Important Upcoming Dates:

- **November 8th:** Interdisciplinary Citizenship Project is due.
- **November 10th:** 7th/8th grade picture day
 - Payments for picture day will only be accepted on day pictures are taken.
- **November 11th:** Veteran's Day - No School
- **November 18th:** End of the first marking period
- **November 23rd:** Half-day
- **November 24th-25th:** Thanksgiving recess