



## Middle School December News

Haines School -- 247 W. 23rd Place -- 773-534-9200

7th/8th ELA - Ms. Khawam, Ms. Sicora, Ms. Suen

Social Science - Ms. Sicora (304)      Science - Ms. Khawam (307),      Math - Ms. Suen (309)

*"Families are a valuable asset to a child's education."*

### Advisory

This month's character trait focus is self-control

### December Stars of the Week

Room 304 - Janella Lee, Wulong Situ, Wing Lee

Room 307 - Toy Joshua, Tsang Erica, Petty Patricia

Room 309 - Kimberly Wong, Courtney Mei, Cindy Ye

### Free60

- Students will conduct research on issues pertinent to the city of Chicago, come up with a solution to those issues, and present their findings to their teachers. Students will also use online educational resources to do independent work that is set at their individual level.

### English Language Arts

- During the month of December, room 307 will continue to focus on intensive practice of close reading of informational text and literature. We will be concluding reading of the novel "The Giver". Students will read for comprehension and respond to literature by written responses. We will also focus on intensive writing during our writing workshop days.
- 8th graders in 304 will continue reading *A Raisin in the Sun*, a play by Lorraine Hansberry. The play covers themes of social, educational, political, and economical impacts on family during the 1950's in Chicago. Students will focus on the connections between the themes of the play and Dr. King's speeches and poetry by Langston Hughes. Students will also practice fluency skills while doing dramatic readings from scenes of the play.
- In room 309, the 8th graders will continue their novel study of *Animal Farm*. This allegorical novel will focus on the themes of power (and the struggle to power), the power of education/literacy, class stratifications, as well as the historical significance of the novel. Students will continue to with their literature circles (book clubs), in which they will be working on group activities to deepen comprehension and discussion skills. In terms of writing students will be focusing on argumentative writing via ThinkCERCA and narrative writing in Writer's Workshop.

### Math

- The 7th graders have begun a unit, *Stretching and Shrinking*, which focus on using proportional reasoning to scale shapes, with an emphasis on triangles, up or down. Students will explore the idea of similarity and congruence, and how they are different.
- 8th graders have begun working through the unit, *Growing, Growing, Growing*, of which students explore the exponential growth and decay relationships. Students will be focusing on the table, graph, and equation representations of exponential patterns.

- The 8th grade students are focusing on Chapter 3, *Graphs*, where students explore the different graphs (linear, exponential, inverse variation, cubic, quadratic, and absolute value) and how manipulating the equations/transformation rules can affect the graphs and vice versa.

### Science

- Middle School Science Fair will be held on December 8th.
- After the school wide science fair, the 8th graders will start new unit; **Water**. In this unit, students will explore and test the unique properties of water. Students will dive into the exploration of sustainability of water on Earth. They will investigate the sources and quality of local water.
- The seventh graders will finish the **Ecology** unit and dive into **All About You** unit. In this unit, students will learn that human body is composed of many systems that support our body.

### Social Studies

- 7th and 8th grade U.S. History will continue to work on reading and writing like historians. Students will continue to source primary source documents, corroborate evidence, and this month they will learn how to figure out when and where a document was created and how these circumstances affect its content.
  - 7th grade content in November is continuing *Building a Republic: The U.S. Constitution*. Investigation topic: *How Does the U.S. Constitution Guard Against Tyranny*. 7th grade will also start studying for the U.S. Constitution test to take place in 2017. .
  - 8th grade topic in November: Students will be completing the editing process for C-Span Studentcam project: Your message to Washington: What is the most urgent issue the new president and Congress should address in 2017? Students have been conducting interviews of stakeholders, researching their topic, designing a storyboard. Content area focus: *The Progressive Era: A Study of Developing Urban Life in the early 1900s*. Investigation Topic: *Immigration Then and Now*

### Reminders

- Parents, do you want to know how to check your child's grades and attendance? You can pick up your PIN from Mr. Shar in the office.
- Each week a student will be chosen as the Star of the Week. Your student has their date and expectations.
- Provide teachers with an email to correspond about your student's progress throughout the year.
- Check your student's agenda nightly.
- Expectations are that each student arrive at 7:45 each morning.
- Please donate cans to the Haines Can Food Drive.

### Important December Dates

- December 8 - Middle School Science Fair
- December 9 - End of the Food Drive
- December 10 - Chicago Junior Math League Contest 2 and First Lego League Competition (Robotics)
- December 26 - January 6 - Winter Break - NO SCHOOL