



## Middle School February 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 cooperation

### February Stars of the Week

Room 304 - Raymond Qui, Randy Lin, Tiffany Mei, Wulong Situ

Room 307 - Li Yanqiang, Zhang Hao, Louis Taylor, Tramy Jiang

Room 309 - Angel Nieves, Zhiyuan Hu, Jiaxi Huang, Cindy Deng

### Free60

- Students had their Free60 Expo right after break and successfully presented their ideas to their peers.
- Students will continue to focus on skills and targets identified through the winter administration of NWEA
- Our next problem based learning project will focus on creating presentations for school and community stakeholders about improvements to Haines facilities.

### English Language Arts

- Here in room 307, during month of February, we will continue reading *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen. During reading of this novel, students will focus on how one can develop survival skills in times of need. The main character of the novel, although he is only 13, he is faced with the fact that he needs to learn survival skills and make decisions that are very crucial to his survival. While reading this novel, students will have many hands-on activities to help them understand the reading. At the end of the unit, students will create a portfolio, as well as an expo of different projects created for this novel. Along reading, students explore tools and literary devices that author uses to compose writing.
- 8th graders in 304 will start reading the dystopian/science-fiction novel, *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury. Students will work on their analysis skills by analyzing quotes from the text to find shades of meaning, identify paradoxical statements in the text, read informational text and other literature to appreciate the allusions made in the novel, understand the 3 types of irony and be able to identify them in the novel, and understand the author's craft of using motifs in writing to express the theme.
- In room 309, the 8th graders will begin their novel study of *The Children of Willesden Lane* by Mona Golabek and Lee Cohen. 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 will continue a unit focusing on ratios and proportions through a unit called *Comparing and Scaling*. Students will use their prior knowledge from the previous unit of enlarging and reducing (*Stretching and Shrinking*) and build upon the ideas of equivalence.

- 8th graders are in the middle of the unit *Hubcaps, Mirrors, and Kaleidoscopes*, students will look for patterns on rotational symmetry, reflection symmetry, and translational symmetry. In addition, students will be looking for patterns and determine rules that will reflect, rotate, and translate coordinates on a plane.
- The 8th grade students taking Algebra will be focusing on the next major topic of functions. Students will determine the components of a function (domain, range) and what makes a function a function. In addition, they will continue to deepen their understanding of the relationship between equations, tables, and graphs.

### Science

- Room 307; the 7th grade started the **All About You Unit** and they continue the study of a human body. This unit will carry through the entire month of February.
- 8th graders already started new unit; **Water**. students will continue exploring 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. This unit as well will continue throughout the month of February.
- After school STEAM will start on January 30th. Please encourage your child to join. In this program, students will explore the physics of sounds and the mathematics of music. Students will design and built musical instruments.
- I am trying to replenish classroom supplies in forms of tissues, paper towels and printing paper. Not every student brought their supplies in the beginning of the school year. We use lots of paper towel rolls due to the fact that we carry many experiments that can be messy and we have to deal with spills. Please send with your child a roll of paper towel and printing paper. Thank you

### Social Studies

- 7th and 8th grade students have worked hard on their skills of reading and writing like historians. This month they will use those skills to create a history fair projects. The theme is *Taking a Stand in History*. 8th graders will be encouraged to apply the theme to the Progressive Era.
  - 7th grade content in February is the Illinois State Constitution and westward expansion. Investigation Topic: *How does the Constitution Guard Against Tyranny?*
  - 8th grade content area focus in February: *The Progressive Era: A Study of Developing Urban Life in the early 1900s*. Investigation Topic: *The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire: Who is to blame for the loss of so many lives?* Students will study primary sources to develop an argument about who should be blamed for the large loss of lives in the historic factory fire. The end activity will be a whole group discussion to come to a consensus on the person(s) responsible.

### 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.

### Important February Dates

- February 2 - End of 2nd Quarter
- February 3 - No School - School Improvement Day
- February 8 - 7th Grade U.S. Constitution Test
- February 10 - Report Card Distribution Day
- February 20 - No School - President's Day