

Middle School April News



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

ELA - Ms. Grober (301)

Mathematics - Mrs. Sumita (303)

Science - Dr. Ferrer (302)

Social Science - Ms. Twillie (308)

Special Education - Ms. Berman (205)

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

Character Trait of the Month - April Citizenship 

English Language Arts

6th graders are reading and analyzing *TOUCHING SPIRIT BEAR* by Ben Mikaelson. They are applying the Elements of Literature from the Short Story Unit and *Esperanza Rises* Novel Unit in addition to the Figurative Language terms from their Poetry Unit. This novel is about a 15-year old juvenile delinquent, Cole, with anger issues from Minnesota. He severely injures one of his classmates and to avoid going to prison, agrees to participate in an "alternative sentence" based upon Native American Circle Justice. He is sent to a remote island in Alaska where he encounters a huge SPIRIT BEAR who changes his life. The students completed Plot Diagrams and Character Charts in March. The unit will conclude with an Expository Essay.

7th graders are reading, analyzing, and critiquing **A LESSON BEFORE DYING** by Ernest J. Gaines. They are applying their knowledge of the Elements of Literature from their Short Story Unit and *THE GIVER* Novel Unit and Figurative Language terms from their Poetry Unit to enhance the comprehension of the novel. The novel takes place in a small Cajun community in Louisiana in the late 1940's. A young black man, Jefferson, is wrongly convicted of murder and sentenced to death. Grant Wiggins, a teacher, is persuaded by his aunt and Jefferson's godmother to impart his learning and teach Jefferson pride before he is electrocuted. The two men form a bond and the unexpected irony is that Jefferson becomes the teacher. The students are in the process of writing a Persuasive Essay.

Math

In anticipation of NWEA in May all students should be using Khan Academy ([khanacademy.org](https://www.khanacademy.org)) 1-3 hours weekly on those concepts they feel they need additional practice. Those should include probability and statistics!

6th graders have recently completed our review unit on percents -- using different methods to find parts of numbers (or the whole) and percents. They also have used percents in real-life situations. We are turning our focus to geometry in the next unit, learning how to find area of polygons and surface area and volume of 3-D figures (polyhedrons). After this unit, we'll review using the statistical measures of mean, median, mode and range and how to develop a set of numbers given a specific measure.

As always, 6th graders should continue working to organize themselves for success in the mathematics class! This includes maintaining their binder to include all of their materials (so that nothing is inadvertently left in their locker, in their desks or at home!). They also will continue to update their vocabulary, take notes daily and talk to each other with respect so that we can learn from each other.

7th graders are completing a very important unit called Moving Straight Ahead. This unit focuses on linear functions and how to answer questions based on the three representations (tables, graphs and equations). Our next unit is important for the year-end NWEA test, called What Do You Expect? Which focuses on probability and expected values. They will learn the difference between experimental and theoretical probability, how to use an area model to find probability and other strategies for finding outcomes.

Science

6th graders will continue their Plate Tectonics unit. In this unit they will investigate and find out how volcanoes, earthquakes, and mountain building are related to different types of plate boundaries. They will also learn about changes to the earth's surface that take place over very long periods of time. Students will end the unit by making decisions about the complex issue of where to dispose of nuclear waste.

7th graders will continue their Genetics unit and use Punnett squares to predict the approximate frequencies of traits; analyze genetic data; effects of randomly occurring mutations; the interplay of hereditary (nature) and environmental factors in the development of an organism's trait; how to model the diversity of offspring possible from 2 parents and use pedigrees to analyze patterns of transmission for recessive and dominant traits. They will end the unit by investigating the use of DNA fingerprints as evidence in establishing family relationships and performing an ethical analysis to decide what should be done with the lost children of Namelia.

Social Studies

6th graders completed their study of the Mediterranean Empire of Rome. The class will travel east through present day Israel, Turkey, Iran and Afghanistan. The class will learn more about Marco Polo and Kublai Khan. The class will continue analyzing primary and secondary documents, spotlight on answering the historical question: "How did the early Islamic empire expand".

7th graders successfully completed their History Fair exhibits. The competition was very close and two boards were selected to represent room 303 in the John C. Haines History Fair. There were also two projects that received classroom notables for their efforts. The class will return their focus back to government. The class will begin reviewing and learning about the Illinois State Constitution. Students will be tested on their knowledge of the State Constitution in May, 2017.

Room 205: We will be starting our new novel, "The Lemonade War" and working on comprehension, inference and building vocabulary. In math we are honing our multiplication and division skills. Students should be practicing math facts daily. In science we are continuing to study the Earth, its composition and different processes that affect the planet. In social science we are beginning our study of the events leading up to the Revolutionary War and the formation of the United States. Constitution test coming! . We are also learning about important figures during Women's History Month. Students should continue to read independently nightly and spend some time on IXL at least 5 days a week.

Reminder

Encourage your child to read daily.

Important April Dates

April 7 - Furlough day, no classes

April 10 through 14 - Spring Break, no classes

April 19 - Report Card Pickup and Parent/Teacher Conference (12:00 p.m. -- 6:15 p.m.)

April 27 - Room 302 Great Lakes Action Day @12th St Beach (if approved)

April Stars of the Week

April 5	April 26
Josie Li- Room 301 Vivian Chen - Room 303 Natalie Lao - Room 308	Leyi Wu - Room 301 Isabell Wu - Room 303 Anthony Xie - Room 308

Character Trait of the Month

October- Kindness **orange**

November- Caring **brown**

December- Self control **red**

January- Self motivation **pink**

February- Cooperation **white**

March Honesty **green**

April Citizenship **blue**

May Responsibility **yellow**

June Tolerance **turquoise**

Area for Recess

November/December - Field

January/February

March/April - Lot 2, wall

May/June - Field