

## Middle School February 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 - Cooperation **white**

#### English Language Arts

**6th graders** will read and analyze *TOUCHING SPIRIT BEAR* by Ben Mikaelson. They will apply 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 unit will include an Expository Essay.

**7th graders** will read, analyze, and critique **A LESSON BEFORE DYING** by Ernest J. Gaines. They will apply 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 will write a Persuasive Essay as a culminating activity.

#### Math

**All math students have access to Khan Academy ([khanacademy.org](https://www.khanacademy.org)) and should be spending 1-3 hours weekly on those concepts they feel they need additional practice.**

**6th graders** are completing their study of algebraic equations and inequalities. Importantly, they are learning how to fluently move between one representation to another (i.e., being able to work with tables, graphs and equations of the same data). We are close to completing the first volume of our textbook! When complete, we'll move to Volume 2, and begin our study of ratio and rate.

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** completed our unit on Stretching and Shrinking, understanding how shapes are similar (proportional). We've begun our follow-up unit entitled Comparing and Scaling, which looks at proportional relationships more in depth and how ratios are designed to compare different quantities..

### Science

**6th graders** will end their Exploring the Solar System unit by making a decision about funding a space exploration mission. Students will discuss the feasibility of each mission and what it could accomplish. They will base their decision on information in the mission proposals and content from the previous activities. Finally, they will write a letter citing the evidence that forms the basis of their recommendation. Then students will investigate volcanoes, earthquakes, how mountains are formed, and the changes to the earth's surface that take place over very long periods of time in their upcoming Plate Tectonics unit.

**7th graders** will end their Ecology unit by teaching each other about their team's Chicagoland introduced species' scientific name, distribution, effects on people/ecosystems, and place in the food web. They will discuss, what, if anything, can and should be done about the population of their introduced species in the U.S. Students will also discuss the characteristics of an introduced species that make it likely to proliferate in a given ecosystem. Then students will learn about principles that answer genetics-related questions i.e. why some children look very much like their biological parents while others look completely different.

### Social Studies

**6th graders** continue to study the Mediterranean Empire of Greece. The class will continue analyzing primary and secondary documents. Students have selected one of three Greek philosophers to research and will create a snapshot biography. Students will be introduced to Greek culture through several close reads of Greek mythology. Students will end this unit with the play "The Trojan Horse".

**7th graders** continue to source and contextualize primary source and secondary sources. Students will continue narrowing their focus for the History Fair. The class will complete research both during class and as homework assignments. Students will receive their Federal Constitution workbooks and will prepare for the test.

### Room 205:

We will finish our novel study and move on to some classic literature. Students continue to work on answering text questions by going back to text, making inferences, and using context to decode the meaning of unfamiliar words. 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 13 colonies, why they were settled and the impact on native cultures. In math we are studying time and the various aspects of time (elapsed time, time conversion). 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.

### Field Trips

January 27 - 6th grade field trip to Adler Planetarium (Rooms 301, 302, 306, and 308)

February 2 - 7th grade trip to Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra (303)

February 10th- 6th grade trip to see Don Quixote at Chicago Symphony Center

**February Stars of the Week**

February 1	February 8	February 15	February 22
Yaying Chen - 302 Zibin Chen - 303	Isaac Chung - 302 Chloe Lu - 303	Kitrell Ellis - 302 Amanda Yu - 303	Isaiah Gillespie - 302 Flora Wu - 303

<b>Character Trait of the Month</b>	<b>Area for Recess</b>
October- Kindness <b>orange</b> November- Caring <b>brown</b> December- Self control <b>red</b> January- Self motivation <b>pink</b> February- Cooperation <b>white</b> March Honesty <b>green</b> April Citizenship <b>blue</b> May Responsibility <b>yellow</b> June Tolerance <b>turquoise</b>	November/December - Field January/February March/April - Lot 2, wall May/June - Field

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**Important February Dates**

February 02 - End of Quarter 2, Room 303, 7th-grade field trip

February 03 - No Classes Furlough Day

February 05 - Chinatown Lunar New Year parade: Year of the Rooster

February - Quarter 2 Report Cards Sent

February 10 - Don Quixote @ Chicago Symphony Center - 6th-graders

February 20 - President's Day, No Classes School Closed