



### **Middle School April News**

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

ELA - Ms. Grober (301)

Mathematics - Mrs. Sumita (303)

Science - Ms. Khawam (304)

Social Science - Ms. Twillie (302)

Special Education - Ms. Berman (205)

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

### **Character Trait of the Month: Citizenship**

### **School Safety and Security**

In an effort to keep our students, teachers, and staff safe and secure at Haines we are implementing new rules in addition to our existing safety and security rules.

1. Parents must have an appointment to speak to any teacher.
2. If a parent does not have a scheduled appointment, they are welcome to leave a note for the teacher in the office.
3. The office will not be calling up to the classroom if there is no meeting set.

### **Important Information Regarding Parent Portal**

A flyer was placed on the Haines website regarding how to log into Parent Portal. If you have not seen it, and are still not connected to Parent Portal, please go to the Haines website and/or send an email to your child's teacher so that they may send you a copy.

### **English Language Arts**

**6th graders** will read and analyze ***TOUCHING SPIRIT BEAR*** by Ben Mikaelson. They will apply the Elements of Literature terms from the Short Story and Esperanza Rising units in addition to the Figurative Language terms from their Poetry unit. This novel is about a 15-yr old juvenile delinquent, Cole, with anger issues. He severely injures one of his classmates and to avoid going to prison, he 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 ***SPIRIT BEAR*** who changes his life. Students will create a plot line and write an Expository Essay.

**7th graders** will read, analyze, and critique ***A LESSON BEFORE DYING*** by Ernest J. Gaines. They will use their background knowledge of the Elements of Literature and Figurative Language 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 pride to Jefferson before he is electrocuted. The two men form a bond and the unexpected irony is that Jefferson becomes the teacher. Students will create a plot line and write a Persuasive Essay.

## Science

The sixth graders are finishing the Weather and Climate unit. Currently, students are researching the human factor behind the global warming. Students research both sides. Once the research is over, they will formulate arguments and engage into scholarly debate among each other. After this unit is finished, students will start **Earth's Place in the Universe**, followed by **Astronomy**. In two weeks or so, sixth graders will start new unit; **Astronomy**. In this unit they will learn all about our place in the universe.

The seventh graders are continuing learning about human body. The final project of this unit is to research genetically inherited diseases. Students will compose presentations based on their research on what they have learned in science.. After the project is finished, students will go onto the new unit. They will study **DNA** and **Inheritance**

## Math

All math students are encouraged to discuss the mathematics in the classroom by asking questions and building on each others' ideas. Being able to communicate is extremely important in building knowledge and practicing the use of good vocabulary!

**6th grade students** are working on understanding and using ratio and rates. Once they make the connection between equivalent rates and equivalent fractions, the topic makes more sense to them! They also will see the connection between this unit and our previous study of equations, tables and graphs. Student are learning what ratios represent and use unit rates to solve everyday problems. Additionally, students will work on converting both customary and metric units of measure, a very challenging topic!

Upon completion of this unit, 6th graders will begin working with percents. This topic is extremely useful for all students as it has clear, everyday connections and use. Students will understand how to determine percents using several different methods and be able to apply this knowledge when they are shopping, giving tips at restaurants or (when they're older), understand how interest rates impact purchase prices.

All 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 Moving Straight Ahead! They are applying previous knowledge of linear representations and determining how they relate to each other structurally. They also will determine when a linear relationship is proportional, which is a key 7th-grade standard. Upon completion of this unit, 7th graders will revisit three-dimensional geometric shapes and understand how to find volume and surface area,

## Social Studies

**6th graders:** We have completed our Haines School History Fair. Three projects from our sixth grade were displayed and received Honorable Mention. Two projects from our 7th grade will represent Haines at the Chicago Metro History

Fair. The fair will be held at Lane Technical High School on April 7, 2018, 9:00- 12:00. The students have also completed the PARCC assessments for Math & English Language Arts/Literacy. The sixth graders will travel in time to Medieval Europe. Students recall geography skills and complete a travel brochure. Students will continue to utilize primary and secondary sources to research their chosen country.

**7th graders:** We have completed our Haines School History Fair. Two projects from our 7th grade will represent Haines at the Chicago Metro History Fair. The fair will be held at Lane Technical High School on April 7, 2018, 9:00 - 12:00. The students have also completed the PARCC assessments for Math & English Language Arts/Literacy. The seventh graders will continue studying for the U.S. Constitution Test. The test will occur the last week in April.

**Room 205**

**Math:** Working on doing operations of fractions. Using these skills and apply to real world problems, especially in choosing the right operation to use and deciding if an answer makes sense.

**Reading:** Grammar work using a variety of adverbs and adjectives to make writing more creative. Also using and understanding a variety of figurative language forms. In grammar we are also working on simple and compound sentences, and using adjectives and adverbs to make sentences more interesting. We are also working on using context clues to learn new vocabulary. Novel study of "From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler," about a brother and sister who run away to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. We will be working on comprehension and writing extended responses.

**Social Science:** read about causes of the Reconstruction and how it impacted the country and it's economy. We are studying various historical figures and their continued impact on the United States.

**Science:** Continue to study how the body works. Please continue to work on IXL to practice basic skills, and READ, READ, READ!

April 13th- School Improvement Day. Non-attendance for students

April 18th- Parent/Teacher Conferences (12:00-5:45). Non-attendance for students

**April Stars of the Week**

April 2-6	April 9-13	April 16-20	April 23-27
Karen Mai (303) Lichen WuWu (304) Emily Wuy (301)	Michael Mei (304)	Jianwen Mei Lin (303) Bailey Siu (304)	Ian Fong (303) Zhong Jie Sun (304)

<p><b><u>Character Trait of the Month</u></b></p> <p>Oct Kindness <b>orange</b></p> <p>Nov Caring <b>brown</b></p> <p>Dec Self control <b>red</b></p> <p>Jan Self motivation <b>pink</b></p> <p>Feb Cooperation <b>white</b></p>	
--	--

March Honesty **green**

April Citizenship **blue**

May Responsibility **yellow**

June Tolerance **turquoise**