



### **Middle School December 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: Self Control (RED)**

#### **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 and 7th graders** will enjoy and appreciate poetry by listening, reading, analyzing, critiquing and writing poems. They will explicate poems by applying Elements of Literature, Figures of Speech and Poetic Terms. They will express feelings, emotions, and creativity while making connections. They will explore the elements of many different types of poetic forms and understand poetic elements, forms, and expressions. This unit will enhance the students' reading, oral, listening and writing skills.

## 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 graders** have begun our third unit of the year, entitled Numeric and Algebraic Expressions. Students will review past topics including exponents, greatest common factor, least common multiple and order of operations. They then use that prior knowledge to begin writing algebraic expressions, using the Distributive Property to simplify expressions and combining like terms. This serves as our initial algebra unit and students' first formal use of variables to represent numbers.

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** have begun a very important unit entitled Stretching and Shrinking. Students will explore what it means for shapes and images to be similar. They also will describe specifically what it means for shapes to be similar and the effects of the shape's angles, sides, perimeter and area. This book emphasizes and begins students' exploration of proportional reasoning, which is a major 7th-grade standard.

## Science

**6th graders** started new unit : **Plate Tectonics**. In this unit, students are learning that Earth is a dynamic planet. Earth's landmasses are changing position continuously as they move across Earth's surface. This movement is possible because of the movement of tectonic plates. As plates move, mountain ranges form, earthquakes happen, and volcanoes form. Just like previous years, students will reflect on their scientific observations and and provide evidence on which of the eight (8) NGSS practices they think they used during their learning.

**7th graders** started new unit **All About You**. In this unit, students will learn how human body functions and how it is a system made of smaller systems within. Students will learn to make healthy choices to keep their bodies functioning properly.

### **Science Fair**

Science Fair in class presentation for all classes will take place on Monday, December 4. Please continue to support your child as they are putting final touches on their boards.

## Social Studies

**6th graders:** We completed Chapter Three: Egypt and Nubia. The class has also completed Chapter Thirteen: African Empires. We will travel north across the Mediterranean Sea and enter Athens, Greece. The students will continue to develop in the skill area of summarizing. The students will utilize primary and secondary sources from Ancient Greece and artifacts from the Hellenic Museum visit to generate claims about the past.

**7th graders:** Students will continue to source and contextualize primary source and secondary sources. The class has finished Chapter Four: The Thirteen Colonies. Students are preparing to learn about the American Revolution. The

students will write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

**Room 205:**

Math: Working on divisions skills using whole numbers and decimals. 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 verb tenses correctly in writing. Also using and understanding a variety of figurative language forms. Novel study of Shiloh is just about finished, we will be comparing the book to the movie and doing a final book report project., focusing on summarization skills. Social Science: read about continued expansion of the United States, impact on land and native cultures. 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!

**Reminder**

Encourage your child to read daily.

**Important December Dates**

December 8 - Middle School Science Fair

December 15 - National Hellenic Museum Artifacts

December 20 - Winter Arts Festival

**December Stars of the Week**

December 1	December 8	December 15 and 22
Michelle Zhou 302 Emily Lin 301	Moné Barnes 303 BiGui Liu 302 Stanley Huang 301	Jeffrey Mei 303 Kayla Ruan 302 Carmen Huang 301

<b><u>Character Trait of the Month</u></b>	
Oct Kindness <b>orange</b>	
Nov Caring <b>brown</b>	
Dec Self control <b>red</b>	
Jan Self motivation <b>pink</b>	
Feb Cooperation <b>white</b>	
March Honesty <b>green</b>	
April Citizenship <b>blue</b>	
May Responsibility <b>yellow</b>	
June Tolerance <b>turquoise</b>	