



### **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)

#### **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**

Sixth grade will officially start new unit in the last week of March. They will start Astronomy. During that unit, they will learn Earth's place in the universe. They will learn about the Laws in the Universe, and the forces behind. They will learn different types of energy and how it is transformed throughout the universe.

The seventh graders are continuing learning about human body. Students just created human body travel brochure. 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:** Students have arrived safely on the shores of ancient Rome. The class will continue to enhance their comprehension skills in the areas of Central Ideas and Details and Compare/Contrast. Students will also have several opportunities to analyze primary and secondary sources throughout this unit. Civic Leadership classes have resumed and the students continue to develop social skills necessary to work successfully in groups.

**7th graders:** Students have completed the Haines History Fair: "Triumph and Tragedy in History". Congratulations to all the participants. Exhibit board: "Lost Childhood" was the classroom high score, it will continue on to the Chicago Metro History. All students successfully worked in groups and completed exhibit boards showcasing their research. The students have received their Constitution workbooks and have completed units 1-3 of the United States Constitution.

### **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!

### **Stars of the Week**

March 4-8	March 11-15	March 19-22	March 26-29
Rashaad Armstrong -- 303	Kanoa Lee-Kline -- 303	Vincent Cheung -- 303	Michelle Yu -- 303

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**March Dates**

April 10th- Parent/Teacher Conferences

April 15th-April 19th- SPRING BREAK