



### **Middle School May News**

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

ELA - Ms. Grober (301)

Mathematics - Ms. Sumita (303)

Science - Ms. Khawam (304)

Social Science - Ms. Twillie (302)

### **Important Announcements**

In two weeks, students will be taking the year-end NWEA test. Please make sure that your child gets enough sleep before the test. The scores from the NWEA test are important, as 6th grade is a benchmark year and 7th grade scores are used for selective enrollment high school applications.

Parents please be aware: Students enter the building on Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 7:50-7:55 AM, when weather permits. Students line up in the lunchroom or in the multi-purpose room.

### **English Language Arts**

**6th graders** will be ending their year with a DRAMA UNIT. Using their background knowledge of Elements of Literature and Figurative Language, they will also be exposed to Dramatic Language, Conflicts in Drama, and Character Development. The students will be directing and performing the play **THE MONSTERS ARE ON MAPLE STREET** by Rod Serling.

**7th graders** will be ending their year with a DRAMA UNIT. They will read, analyze, critique, and PERFORM plays. They will use their background knowledge from the Short Story, Novel Study, and Poetry Units and in addition will learn about stage directions, sets, scenery, props, acts, scenes, and playwrights. They will be exposed to early Greek Drama and William Shakespeare. They will identify the insights about human life and nature based upon the ACTIONS and WORDS of the characters.

### **Science**

Sixth grade students are continuing to study **Astronomy** in which they will explore Earth in relation to the universe. In this unit, students will learn how to write large numbers in scientific notation form. Students will calculate the distance between Earth and other celestial bodies.

The seventh graders just started to explore the **Heredity and DNA** unit. In this unit, students will extract DNA from strawberries. Students will explore phenotype and genotype. Students will simulate the

randomness at which the genes are pulled from the pool in order to define a live being.

During the summer break, parents please encourage students to start thinking about potential science fair topics..

## **Math**

*All students are encouraged to use Math IXL and/or Khan Academy during the summer. This will help ensure that there is less of a “summer slide” in knowledge!*

**6th grade students** are beginning their geometry unit, focusing on area, surface area and volume. Since this is our only geometry unit of the year, it’s important for students to understand the conceptual difference between all of these measures and recognizing how the formulae are derived.

Students will complete their year with a deeper understanding of measures of central tendency (e.g., mean, median, mode and range). Specifically they are learning when one measure is a better representation of data and how the measures of variability describe how different data are from the mean or media. It takes a lot of patience and precision!

We also will end the year as we began it, with a focus on problem-solving strategies and different ways to solve problems.

**7th graders** are continuing their probability investigations with the book What Do You Expect. The work allows students to explore different ways of setting up games to and the probabilities of winning at the game. They also look to understand whether games are fair or not.

We will end the year with a jump into 8th grade mathematics, with a quick overview of quadratic relationships.

## **Social Studies**

**6th graders:** This has been an action packed year. After a quick stop in Asia, sixth grade students will complete their tour of the world with our final destination of South America. Students will utilize all the skilled that they have mastered this year, such as: Central Ideas and details, Sequence, Compare and Contrast, Cause and Effect, and Summarize. Students will begin to learn about the early Americans in preparation for 7th grade.

**7th graders:** This has been a productive year for the seventh grade students. Students will be taking both the United States and Illinois Constitutions Tests. Students worked collaboratively, researched, designed, and presented History Fair projects using the National History Day theme: “Triumph and Tragedies in History”. The class will continue their studies of American History and conclude with an overview of 1820-1860.

**Important Dates:**

May 6 -- May 10 Teacher Appreciation Week

May 14 -- Aladdin performance

May 17 -- Progress Reports distributed

May 17 -- Red Clay Spring Dance field trip (303)

May 22 -- Arts Festival

May 31 -- Health Fair