

# 6th grade NEWS & NOTES

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February 2007

## **LANGUAGE ARTS – MRS. JOHNSON:**

We are currently reading Where the Red Fern Grows, Lily's Ghosts, Al Capone Does My Shirts, and The Young Man and The Sea in classes. Students have been rotating artful artist, creative connector, discussion director, passage master, super summarizer, and word wizard roles to increase reading awareness and comprehension.

In class, we have also worked to strengthen writing skills. We are practicing smiley-face writing tricks such as magic 3, figurative language, repetition for effect, hyphenated modifier, specific details for effect, humor, and expanded moment. These are writing tools that make successful authors. Since sixth graders have been incorporating them into their own writing, their style has improved a lot!

Other areas we work on in class are: reading short stories for a purpose, learning about parts of speech, daily oral language, and spelling strategies.

Thank you for your support by ensuring that your child is reading two hours weekly at home from a personal interest book or magazine!

## **SCIENCE – MRS. SANGILLO:**

In science we are finishing up the Simple Machine Unit. Each student has chosen an inventor to research and determine if he or she hold a patent for the invention. Your student will produce parts for a large bulletin board in the classroom. This project has all the part of a research paper (note cards, bib sheets, bibliography page) except the paper. We will also be looking at first, second, and third class levers (you know load movers, tweezers, and wheelbarrows).

## **MATH – MRS. BARTLETT:**

My apologies. I had written a letter about Connected Math that was to have been sent with the last newsletter, but it came to my attention (at a much later date) that it had not been sent, and by that time it was old news so I did not send it. Currently, we are half way through our first Connected Math book called "Prime Time". We have made some slow and steady progress. I feel it is important for the students to learn how to read the questions accurately and to understand what a good answer looks like. This goes very well with the expectations for some of the MEA questions. We have done plenty of work with factors and multiples and are now making the connections with Least Common Multiples and Greatest Common Factors. These are important concepts that will help students when they move into the next book which will begin work with

fractions. Most students are doing well and have a great attitude. Any time they need extra help, I am available during learning lab as well as after school on certain days.

We also are covering some material that I will not teach using Connected Math this year. We have done work with order of operations and have just finished area and perimeter work for squares, rectangles, and triangles. Another unit coming up will be over division of whole numbers and decimals (everybody's favorite). We have done some work with this, but this will be more comprehensive. Additionally, we are reviewing and practicing for the upcoming Grade Level Expectations test (GLE) that will be given in March. We are looking at some items, which have been released by the state, In addition to practicing the math, we are also discussing strategies, which will hopefully help students at test time. More information about the GLE's as we get closer to test time.

### **SOCIAL STUDIES – MRS. GAUDREAU:**

We are currently studying the early history of Canada. We will continue our study of Canada for the remainder of the second trimester, finishing up with a project of student choice that I will send home more information about at a later date. During the study of Canada, students will be completing a variety of other small projects and assignments. They have just finished cinquain poems about Native Canadian groups, which will be on display shortly in the hallway outside of our classroom. This is a very creative group of students, and I am enjoying seeing the results of their work!

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

- **Recess is outside every day, weather permitting.** As long as the temperature is above 20 degrees , we will be outside. Please remind your child to bring a jacket to school.
- **We apologize for the late notice about the school dance.** We had a difficult time contacting the student who serves as a DJ for us, and were finally able to get in touch with him just 2 days before the dance was held. Thank you to those who were able to send in drinks and food for our bake sale. The money raised from the dance will be used for a field trip this spring. We are not visiting the science museum in Boston this year, but will do something a bit closer to home. We'll keep you posted, as we will need chaperones most likely.