



7th Grade Newsletter



Strategies and Special Education

Greetings from the Special Needs Department! We are Ms. Force (from the 7th grade Maroon House) and Mrs. Savaria (from the 7th grade White House). We are the Inclusion teachers who are working as co teachers in the Language Arts and Math classes. We also conduct strategies classes for the Special Needs students. We are working to build students' basic skills in reading, writing, math computation, and math reasoning.

Please remind your children to track all assignments in Agendas. In addition, parents need to sign the Agendas nightly. Use the Agenda to communicate with the teachers. Have a great year!

"Education is a social process. Education is growth. Education is not a preparation for life; education is life itself"
John Dewey



Science

Mrs. Saunders

HR 327

Currently in science, we are working on different topics in Astronomy. For the past few weeks, we have covered phases, eclipses, and tides.

The students are really enjoying their lab work. They work in groups to figure out scientific problems. The lab re-

ports are their favorite!

We have started our technology piece. The students are designing their own rockets and satellites. They will be working on this project for about a month and are ecstatic. The final project will include a blue print, a 3D model, a written procedure, and a labeled diagram. Our next topics will include Earth's moon and our savage sun!



What's Happening in Your Classes?



Social Studies

Mrs. Borges

HR 326

We just finished early man and are looking forward to Mesopotamia and the start of **civilization!** Our cookie **excavation** produced many future **archaeologists** and yummy, edible artifacts! I cannot wait to see how many **scribes** Mesopotamia will encourage. I am confident that our clay

writing activity will enhance our learning of the ancient Sumerians.

To learn more about our ancient civilizations, please visit www.besthistorysites.net



“Education’s purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one” Malcolm Forbes

Reading Specialist

Mrs. Vieira

We began the year setting up our notebooks and folders so we would be ready and organized to work. We also discussed some of the topics we will cover this year. We then began our poetry study and used it as a vehicle to improve our reading analysis and writing skills. We read and discussed Love That Dog through which the students uncovered things

they knew about poetry and discovered new things to ponder. Poetry has also given us an opportunity to work on fluency. As one student puts it, “We need to read Loud and Proud!” We then continued our study of poetry using “Annabel Lee” by Poe.

As our reading and writing workshop progressed, we continued with another Poe classic, “The Tell-Tale Heart” during which we practiced the seven habits of good

readers. Next the students will practice developing a summary using a plot map of the story.

As the term proceeds we will continue our work with comprehension, vocabulary, fluency, and writing. We will also tackle other genres of drama and non-fiction... all the while celebrating the great gift of the written word.

“There should be a little voice in your head like the storyteller is saying it. And if there’s not, then you’re just lookin’ at the words.”
~ LaKeisha ~ (9th Grader in San Francisco)

Reading Specialist

Mrs. Rego

This month we have been reading the works of Edgar Allan Poe. Students have been developing a deeper understanding of narrative story and poetry through active discussions, questioning and answering, vocabulary building activities, and written reflections. I have modeled how to summarize a narrative story through the use of a plot diagram. Students have been building reading fluency through group and individual poetry readings.

In the upcoming weeks, the students will be participating in a play adapted from Washington Irving’s “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow.” Vibrant vocabulary and active verbs retell this American classic. Students will continue to build vocabulary while increasing decoding and fluency skills. We will then move into the genre of nonfiction. Students will examine the various features of informational articles while responding through conversation, summaries, and written compositions.

“A book is like a garden carried in the pocket.” Chinese proverb

Reading is an Adventure!



What’s Happening In Art?

Mrs. Mattei and Ms. Mandeville’s classes are doing a fantastic job expressing themselves creatively! Wow! We have many talented students this year. 7th grade

students are finishing up their Day of the Dead unit, which focuses on the Mexican holiday, honoring those who have passed on. Students will then begin a unit on “Exploring Artists”, where they will learn about various artist styles from Jackson Pol-

lack to M.C. Escher.

Keep up the good work everyone!

**“Education’s purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one”
Malcolm Forbes**



English
Mrs. Wilbur
HR 324

Students have completed an intense unit of work. Their narrative accounts were completed, turned in, corrected, and re-

turned! What an accomplishment. The stories were interesting and informative, entertaining and delightful. More recently, we have begun an author’s study. We will be focusing on different factors of reading and literary elements used by the author. Students will be required to develop a reader’s response essay in conjunction with this unit of work.

We are also continuing work on new vocabulary. All students are reminded that homework is continuous. All students are to read 20-30 minutes (5 nights a week). They are to complete a minimum of 10 pages each time. The students need to keep a written log which is checked in class. We are busy and working hard.



**“Education is an ornament in prosperity and a refuge in adversity”
Aristotle**

Social Studies
Mrs. Farinha
HR 309

The first two months of school have been very exciting. We have been studying early man and the Paleolithic Period. The students have

learned many things about our hunter-gather ancestors and how they lived. We recently learned about the Neolithic Revolution and how society has changed over millions of years. The students have been perfecting their writing skills and have written wonderful letters

to fictional early farmers describing how life has changed since that time. In the next unit, we will be learning about the beginning of civilization in Mesopotamia. We are eager to learn about the first form of writing and how it all began.



English
Mrs. Facey
HR 210

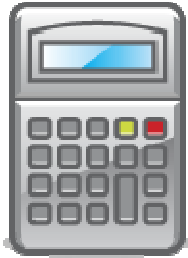
Fail to plan...plan to fail. In English, students have learned how to compose a Narrative Account. Currently, students are reading poetry, novels, and short stories by Gary Soto. In this unit, students are being exposed to topics such as Mexican migrant workers, poverty, family, friendship, and adolescence issues. At

the end of the unit, students will write a literary response to Soto’s work.

Please remember to complete all packets and reading logs (essays) each week. In addition, study diligently for your root words quiz.

YOU CAN SUCCEED!

When you meet obstacles in Math, Don't Give Up.



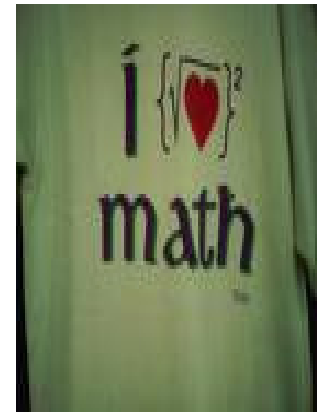
were successful at analyzing graphs, tables, and equations. We fulfilled standard 7 P1! Keep up the good work in getting your Agenda signed! Be sure to complete your homework, and maintain your notebook because it will be graded.

Math

Ms. Pacheco

HR 308

The first book, Variables and Patterns, will be completed by October 23rd. students



Science is Amazing!

Science

Mr. Machado

HR 231

Welcome! In class, we are learning about earth, space, phases of the moon, eclipses, and tides. We are

currently working on our Rocket Project. Please encourage students to study for quizzes, chapter tests, and to take notes consistently.



Technology is Changing the World!!



Computer Technology

We are currently learning our keyboarding skills. This is an important skill

for our students to master. It will help them in their school activities, as well as everyday life. We are currently trying to raise funds to purchase new computers. We began selling our fundraising calendars on October 18, 2009. We will be drawing a winner every

day in November. A list of the winners will be posted near the office. We would also like to thank everyone who has supported this event. We greatly appreciate all your help!





Music Department

All of the music performance groups are currently working on and rehearsing for our holiday concert. The concert will be held on Wednesday, December 16, 2009 at Durfee High School starting at 7:00 pm.



World Language

6th, 7th, and 8th grade Beginner Spanish/Portuguese:

Students are learning numbers, days of the week, months of the year, and seasons vocabulary.

7th grade Spanish:

Students are learning to describe themselves and others. They are also building family vocabulary.

7th grade Portuguese

Students are working on small talk. They are also learning greetings, introductions and goodbyes.



Fight the Flu.



Let's work together
to increase
in
knowledge
and take
learning beyond the
classrooms!

Parents — Help Stop the Spread!

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Teach your children to cover their mouth with a tissue when they cough or sneeze. They can also cough or sneeze into their inner elbow, but not their hands. Teach your children to wash their hands often with soap and water. To make sure their hands get clean, have them sing the happy birthday song twice while washing. They can also use a hand sanitizer to clean their hands. If your children are sick with the flu, keep them home from school for at least 24 hours after their fever goes away. This means they have no fever even when you don't give them medicine for fever.