

8TH GRADE NEWS

JANUARY 2010

Mrs. Rego and Mrs. Vieira READING

Our students are learning better reading skills by questioning, clarifying, predicting and summarizing. Through group discussions, they are expanding their abilities to explain, describe, remember information, and to understand what the author means when it is not directly written in the novel.

Our groups have also been rewriting difficult historical passages into understandable language. These guided lessons help students to interpret challenging material; this type of lesson is essential for building children's ability to read and understand complex passages. Below is an example of "The Pledge of Allegiance" rewritten by a 7th grade-reading group.

I promise to be loyal to the flag of the United States of America and to the government of the United States, one country, protected by God, that cannot be broken apart into two or more countries, with freedom and fair laws for everyone.

Computers

Mrs. Botelho & Mr. Weissman

We would like to thank Aaron Tetrault for donating twenty computers to our school!

Our first assignment on the new computers was researching our science projects – "The Five Kingdoms."

This month we will be learning Microsoft PowerPoint. We will research how different countries celebrate Christmas. We will design Christmas cards to send to US soldiers and SPC Paul Bartkowiak stationed in Cuba. He is the father of 6th grader Christine and 8th grader Brandon Bartkowiak.

Physical Education

Ms.DeCambra, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Harvey

All P.E. classes will be working on a Fitness Unit. This unit will consist of activities that will have an emphasis on promoting physical fitness while decreasing sedentary lifestyles.

ART

Ms. Mandeville & Ms.Mattei

Art students in the 8th grade are learning about symmetry, radial symmetry, symbolism and unity through the discovery of Mandala's and Islamic Tiles. Texture studies and multi-cultural projects will soon follow!

Music

Ms.Laprise, Mr.Mazzarella, Ms.Murray

All performance groups have been working hard toward the Holiday Concert scheduled for Wednesday, December 16, 2009 at Durfee High School starting at 7:00 pm. Band, orchestra, and chorus are currently rehearsing as full groups for the first time, combining 6th, 7th, and 8th grade classes.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our festive

Foreign Language

Ms.Gioni , Ms.Negron, Ms.Resendes

Beginners:

Students will be exploring countries that Portuguese and Spanish are spoken. They will be researching and creating a poster board as well as write a report on the country they are assigned. This will help students have a greater understanding of culture, history and customs of these countries. We look forward to traveling abroad!

Foreign Language

Advanced:

Students will be working on a My Space Project. They will create a written folder and design their own pages. In this assignment students will use their targeted language in various content. They will describe themselves, their interests and what subjects they study. This is a fun project that allows students to be creative and assess what they have learned in their target language. We look forward to seeing their final product!