

# May Middle School Classroom News

## **BRIGHT FUTURES - MRS. BENWAY**

May has finally arrived! Beautiful weather has found us again and we plan to enjoy it! We are hoping to spend a lot of time outdoors exploring and enjoying the sunshine. Please be sure to wear appropriate clothing. We ask that light jackets are marked with your child's name. We also prefer that flip-flops be left at home as they tend to increase injury upon the playground. We will be culminating our school year with a Family Night at Peoria Playhouse May 17th from 4:30pm - 7:30pm. Our last day of class will be Friday May 18th. We would like to thank all our parents for the successful year we have shared together. The hard work you have done at home is evident in your child's progress!

***A Special Reminder:* We will be hosting a Kindergarten Transition Day at the elementary school on Friday, May 11 from 9:00am - 10:30am. All incoming Kindergarten students of the 2018-2019 school year and their parents will be required to attend an informative morning. Breakfast will be served for you and your child. Intended discussions will include transportation procedures; office regulations; discipline, curriculum, classroom routines; special resources; PTA, and extracurricular activities. We hope to build excitement toward all the wonderful adventures ahead.**

## **BRIGHT FUTURES- MS. POWERS**

We are busy planting seeds, watching them grow, and documenting the growth observed weekly. We are also preparing for our Art Showcase at the Peoria Playhouse on May 17th in the evening.

## **EARLY CHILDHOOD- MS. NEMETH**

Our first week back from break was spent getting back in routine, and working with the story The Doorbell Rang. This story is all about friendship, caring, and cookies. Throughout the week, the kids worked hard on sharing a number of objects evenly between different numbers of friends/animals/objects. This simple form of division was a difficult process for them to grasp initially, but they stuck with it, and understood it by the end of the week! They also enjoyed sharing cookies while making their own The Doorbell Rang book. We also have been working on the concept of a whole and a half. Recently, the kids have shown an interest in ocean animals. We have read stories about the ocean, worked on our math skills while feeding a shark, and worked on our literacy skills while catching and sorting fish. We will continue to talk about the ocean as long as they show an interest in it, and then finish the year with many Fairy Tales.

## **FOURTH GRADE- MRS. BARBER & MRS. BASSETT**

The fourth graders will be busy finishing up a year of learning! We will finish our unit on poetry by doing some creative and exciting things-stay tuned to your student for details! We will finish our geometry unit in math and move on to Module 5 to study fractions and decimals. Our study of the U.S. regions will continue in social studies. In science we will finish our unit on sound waves. We will go on our field trip to the dairy farm on Thursday, May 10th. We will have PBIS and ROAR celebrations too. Remind your student to do their homework and follow school rules to be able to participate in all the end of the year fun!

## **FIFTH GRADE- MRS. FUNK & MISS RENO**

5th grade is currently learning to read historical text. We are encouraging students to choose a historical non-fiction text to read along with their fiction text. Students are researching a person or event during the Civil Rights Movement. Students will use this information to complete biography, historical fiction, and essay about their chosen topic. At the end of the unit students will write a speech and present their facts during a wax museum. Parents are encouraged to come to our presentations on May 3 at 9:00.

Students are required to read 20 minutes each night and complete the reading log tasks by Friday. We encourage you to help your children with reading at home. Students may read to you and with you. We also encourage you to ask questions such as the following to help students with their comprehension skills:

1. What is the story about?
2. Who are the characters?
3. Where does the story take place? (This question can be difficult to identify at times.)
4. When does the story take place? (This question can be difficult to identify at times.)
5. Why did these events take place? (This can be student inferred if not clear in the book.)
6. What is the author's purpose? Why did they write this book?
7. Have students write predictions about what events will happen next.

We have finished our last Science unit and will be moving into Social Studies. Students will begin by learning about early colonization of America. Students will read and discuss various explorers of North America. We will learn about the first settlements including Jamestown and the mystery of Roanoke. Students are encouraged to further their learning by reading non-fiction text from this time period.

5th grade students are learning coordinate planes. Students will plot points on a graph. Students will play coordinate battleship. Students will develop an understanding of graphs by applying their knowledge to application problems.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions about the above questions. We look forward to continuing a fantastic year!

## **SIXTH GRADE –MS. COLLINS & MISS KAUFMAN**

As the school year comes to a close, we would like to thank you for allowing us the privilege of working with your son/daughter. The year has gone by rather quickly for the 6th graders as they anxiously await the next step in Jr. High - 7th grade.

We will be finishing up our year with the field trip in May to Chicago. The sights that we will be seeing will incorporate our Reading and Science programs as we will be attending the Shedd Aquarium and the Museum of Science and Industry. Here is where we will be heading in the next few weeks:

**Reading:** We will complete the story Island of the Blue Dolphins about a young girl named Karana who survived living on the Island of the Blue Dolphins by herself after with her younger brother, Ramo, was killed by a pack of wild dogs. As she befriended the leader of the pack, Rontu, she eagerly awaits the day when the ship would come back and take her to her people.

**Social Studies:** As we finish up on Jackie Robinson and the Civil Rights movement, we will spend some time going over geography and current events.

**Language Arts:** We will complete the chapter on adverbs. We will also be discussing editor's marks and how/why they are used in editing our own writing.

**Math:** We will spend the next few weeks learning about area, surface area, volume, and nets. We will have a module 5 test on Monday, May 7th. After that, we will end the year talking about statistics. We will be creating our own statistical question, collecting responses and then we will be showing our data in many ways.

**Science:** We will spend the rest of the year talking about having a “green” planet. We will discuss carbon and its role in the greenhouse effect. We will discuss our carbon footprint, renewable energy/resources, and how different materials are recycled.

As you can see, there is still a lot to do not only in activities but also in our academics: Reading, Math, Science, Soc. Studies, and Language. We would appreciate your help in encouraging your son/daughter to: continue to work hard in doing their best, turn in their work on time, challenge their self to make their AR goal, follow PBIS, and be a friend!

Have a great May!  
Enjoy your summer!

## **FIFTH/ SIXTH GRADE CC II-MRS. STRAIT**

### **4th Grade Reading**

The students have been continuing to practice reading words and stories from our scripted book. They have also worked hard to read books in their AR level and most students are very close to meeting their goal for the year!

### **4th/6th Grade Math**

The students in this Math class have all been working on their individual Math problems in the beginning of the class. Many students have beaten their goals and are working on new goals! They are also practicing multiple Math skills in small groups, as well as, working on math problems on the computer! They have come a long way in Math this year.

### **4th/5th/6th Grade Language Arts**

In Language Arts, all the students are continuing to practice writing in complete sentences about a certain topic. They have been practicing writing with correct punctuation, grammar, spelling, capitalization, etc. We have also been working on skills like titles, parts of books, spelling, etc.

### **5th Grade Math**

The 5th graders have been working on their individual Math problems in the beginning of the class. Some students have beaten their goals and are working on new goals! They are also working together on problems in class about completing line graphs, charts, bar graphs, etc.

### **5th Grade/6th Grade Reading**

These students have been working very hard on reading words and stories from their scripted book, as well as, completing comprehension assessments about the stories at hand. They have also been reading books at their level and taking quizzes. Many of the students have almost met their AR goal for the quarter!

### **6th Grade Reading**

The students are almost finished reading Watson's go to Birmingham! They have really enjoyed reading the book and cannot wait to watch the movie! We hope to read one more novel if there is enough time. These students are also working on improving their reading level so they are reading books at their level and taking quizzes!

## **SEVENTH GRADE– MRS. MACDONALD**

Reading: As we are starting 4th quarter, we are beginning to work on our research paper. During this unit students will learn the ins and outs of creating research papers. At the end of the unit they will presenting their research to their classmates with a Prezi presentation.

Social Studies: We have been working on history from after the American Revolution until the end of Washington's presidency. We are also getting excited about our field trip to Springfield on May 10th.

## **SEVENTH GRADE– MRS. PEMBERTON**

7th grade math and science have had a great quarter so far! In Mrs. Pemberton's class, students have been learning about percents, percent change, and the percent proportion, and they are making progress towards their goals. In science, students are learning about the history of atomic theory. Students are finishing up their introductory unit on Atoms with stations around the room to learn about the period table, how an element is named, and the charge of each subatomic particle.

## **SEVENTH/ EIGHTH GRADE CC III-MRS. PTAK**

It is incredible how fast time has gone by this year! The 7&8th grade students have grown both in their academics and also in maturity. We have discovered so much about ourselves as we finished up our Wonder novel with a paper that synthesizes the characters, their relationships with each other, and how we can connect with them. Much of our time left in school will be spiraling back within the curriculum to keep our newly discovered knowledge fresh! In 7th grade, we will be focusing on proportions and proportionality

as well as probability. In 8th grade, we will be focusing on systems of linear equations and graphing. Our reading sections will end the year with a short story focusing on second chances and how positive changes in our lives can affect others. The students in 6th grade have been creating raps and songs that explain our concepts of ratios, tables, exponents and inverse operations. Please encourage your students to read and do everyday math this summer to keep their minds engaged and ready for the fall. Many of my students have access to Moby Max that has reading, language, and math activities for them to play. Have a fun and safe summer!

### **EIGHTH GRADE - MRS. FULTON**

In reading, 8th grade students will utilize reading strategies to comprehend The Outsiders by, S.E. Hinton. They will then use this understanding of events and characters to analyze each character's actions and motivation while comparing and contrasting their similarities and differences. In addition, we will be comparing the novel to the movie while identifying and analyzing how the differences between the two impact the development of the plot and characters.

In social studies, 8th grade students will be studying the United States Constitution. This month, students will learn about the amendments to the Constitution and evaluate the causes and effects, as well as the impact.

### **EIGHTH GRADE - MRS. KAISER**

The eighth graders have just completed a geometry unit in math. Currently, they are developing an understanding of statistical questions and how to display this information. In addition, they are constructing and interpreting scatter plots. We will end the year learning about probability.

The eighth graders are fully involved in a chemistry unit. I am very proud of the accomplishments they have made in this area. They have been writing electron configurations and balancing chemical equations. It has truly been a pleasure teaching this group of young people. I wish them continued success at Limestone High School.

### **TITLE I- MRS. BARKSDALE, MS. GORMAN & MR. ROBERTSON**

The RtI department at the middle school has been working hard all year to help students increase their knowledge and improve their performance in both reading and math. The extra instruction and practice during RtI sessions give students the opportunity to better understand the skills they are learning in their classrooms.

During the second week of May, all middle school students will take the MAP assessment for the final time this year. We look forward to seeing how much each student has grown academically in both math and reading. We plan to celebrate all students who show growth in math, reading, or both subjects!

### **FOURTH GRADE GIFTED- MISS RENO**

We are wrapping up the *Lemonade Wars!* The students have been working on advising the characters as their problems become more difficult throughout the book. In the coming weeks, we will continue to work on writing prompts to reflect and analyze the plot elements. The fourth graders have been working so hard and we will be sad to see our group come to an end!

### **FIFTH/ SIXTH GRADE GIFTED- MRS. BARKSDALE**

I am so proud of our students who completed the 5th and 6th Grade Gifted program. Congratulations to Angelina Browder, Michale Diggins, Rileanne Bankert-Falk, DeRosa Crawford, Cameron Aiken, Kaden Newman-Casterjon, Lexi Satchfield, Ava Zeiler, Hailee Mayle, Ella Lukehart, and Keion Hart. Their hard work has really paid off.

## **SEVENTH/ EIGHTH GRADE GIFTED- MRS. PEMBERTON**

In 7th and 8th grade gifted, students are learning about mechanical engineering while studying bridge building. Students have begun to build, measure, and test their fully functional bridge using STEM concepts.

## **MUSIC- MS. HILL**

The Bands and PV Singers are always very busy in the month of May! We start off the month with our Spring Concert at 6:00 on Tuesday, May 1. All of the musicians will then be traveling downtown to the Arts in Education: Spring Celebration (commonly known as Brown Bag it) on Monday, May 7. We will be performing at 11:00 at the monument, and eating lunch downtown afterwards. Be watching for permission slips for more details. The advanced Band will be playing for the Honor Roll breakfast later in May, and the PV Singers wrap the year up with a few songs at 8th grade graduation!

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION- MS. SMITH**

Are we ready for some Wiffle Ball! Well that's kind of how the song goes? I am taking all the kids down memory lane of our growing up in the backyard playing a nice neighborhood game of Wiffle Ball!

Teamwork is what makes the game work! That is always the hardest part for the kids to get! We are going to have some fun with this end of the year sport. I would also like to thank all of the 4th through 8th grade students on their hard work this year on the Fitness Testing. I know it is hard to keep improving each year and the target heart zones keep getting harder. I believe 80% of the students enjoy the challenge and really look forward to the testing each year. Stay active this Summer and keep the heart beating strong!