

QUARTERLY CURRICULUM UPDATE

1ST GRADE

Third Quarter 2010

LANGUAGE ARTS – Mrs. Ewert

Please continue to listen to your child read for at least fifteen minutes a night; the sight word flashcards also need to be practiced daily. Your child should recite the sight word list once a week. When eight to ten words out of the twenty are incorrect, stop.

We are working on improving comprehension skills. Ask your child questions about the story; who are the characters, predict what could happen next, make connections to the text, and try to relate to it and/or retell the story.

Students will continue writing in their Journals daily, and will practice writing complete sentences. Sentences are a complete thought. It begins with an uppercase letter, and ends with a punctuation mark.

The spelling word lists will begin clusters (bl, br fl, etc.), adding endings to words and different vowel combinations.

I look forward to seeing you at open house and conferences.

MATH – Mrs. Goodrow

Students have just begun a unit on addition and subtraction where visuals are slowly being replaced with number sentences. However, students will continue to learn to use manipulative tools as they add and subtract with larger numbers. Students will begin performing addition and subtraction operations using money. Function machines will be introduced during this quarter. Please help your child obtain a greater understanding of place value by providing opportunities for him/her to separate various household items into groups of tens and ones. Suggested items are noodles, cereal, twist-ties, pennies, etc. Students should be encouraged to trade ten pennies for one dime, ten dimes for a one-dollar bill, and ten one-dollar bills for one ten-dollar bill, etc.

SCIENCE – Mrs. Anderson

The first grade has completed a unit on magnets and dinosaurs. We have begun working with matter, and determining if something is a solid, liquid, or gas. We will be sorting objects based on their observable properties such as color, shape, size, and sinking or floating. After our unit on matter, we will be learning about the weather.

SOCIAL STUDIES – Mrs. Goodrow

Students will continue to look at family dynamics as we learn to interview one another and sharpen our listening skills. We have been discussing how families change and grow and how to celebrate each family member. Later in the quarter I plan to introduce a lesson or two on celebrating differences while discussing disabilities and how we are all unique. Students will be required to wear gloves with cotton-stuffed fingers and non-powered glasses with paper covering part of the lens in order to experience what a person with a physical/visual impairment experiences.

COMPUTER – Mrs. Goodrow

Students were introduced to Microsoft Word in December and will continue to use Microsoft Word to hone their typing skills while familiarizing themselves with the function keys. Students will also be working in Word Art. They will be required to create their own slide presentations using Power Point.

SPANISH – Mrs. Machniak

The first grade students will be learning about animals and food this quarter in Spanish. They will be learning the words for them, the places animals live, where food grows, utensils we use to eat and serve. We will be making puppets and different settings to help us learn.

RELIGION – Sr. Pat Magee, OP

During Third Quarter First Grade students will learn that talking to God is prayer; that Jesus gave the world "The Lord's Prayer"; and that we pray in many ways. Following these lessons there will be a presentation on the Bible with an emphasis on the stories of Moses and the connection of Jesus' life and death experiences with the season of Lent and Easter.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – Mrs. Anderson

Students have been working on games and activities using loco motor movements. We have also played several games in which students practice striking objects with implements (i.e. paddle ball). We will continue to work with loco motor movements using various levels, pathways, and directions.

ART – Mrs. Machniak

The first grade students will be focusing on the art elements of space and form this quarter. They will be learning about foreground, middle ground and background. They will be working with sculpture and construction. A special thank you to parent Jane Bailey, for submitting and securing a grant for "Picturing America," a program using beautiful art posters by American artists to teach across the content areas. We are enjoying using them!

MUSIC – Mrs. Collings

We will continue to work on Mass music including the mass parts such as "Glory to God in the Highest". Our composers of the month will be J. S. Bach and Clara Schumann. We will begin to learn about the musical alphabet and how songs have a contour (notes that go higher and lower). Keeping a steady beat is a continued goal; I have some new songs to practice this skill. We will continue to make progress with learning to read easy rhythms, mostly quarter and half notes and quarter rests. Tambourines will make an appearance so that we can learn how to play them, as well as boom whackers.

Handwriting – Mrs. Goodrow

Students will continue to work on their alphabet poem books and their handwriting books. Once they are completed, we will begin to use inventive spelling to write stories on a daily basis while working on concepts of print. I am currently having students read the "freezer bag" readers to me in class.

QUARTERLY CURRICULUM UPDATE

2ND GRADE

Third Quarter 2010

LANGUAGE ARTS – Mrs. Ewert

Please continue to listen to with your child read for at least fifteen minutes a night and practice the sight word flashcards. Comprehension skills are practiced daily. I have listed a few ideas on how to boost your child's comprehension. Help your child build his/her comprehension by following the ideas below.

- Preview the story
- Ask questions before, during, and after reading the story.
- Have your child summarize what they read at the end of each chapter.
- Before beginning the next session of reading ask what they remember about what was read the time before.
- Make connections to the text, try to relate to it.
- Ask open ended questions, use how or why.
- Play the "I am thinking" game. Say "I am thinking about someone in the story who helps the cat. Who am I thinking about?"
- Share ideas about the funniest and most interesting characters.

Students began choosing some of their spelling words from a master word list. I have some words that are required, and they choose their challenging words. I am monitoring the students' word choices.

Students will continue writing his/her thoughts in journals and writing stories, utilizing the writing process and editing skills. The writing process consists of brainstorming, writing a draft, editing, conferencing with me, revising, and publishing a finished product. This is a lengthy process and the children are always so excited when it's their turn to conference with me. They love to discuss their work and make the corrections.

I look forward to seeing you at open house and conferences.

MATH – Mrs. Goodrow

Students recently began a unit on measuring using both inches and centimeters. They will continue to measure using larger units of measure (feet, yards, and meters) as we continue into the third quarter. Your child would benefit from help in identifying objects in your home that are X number of centimeters or inches, and identifying objects that are 1, 2, 3, and so on, feet, yards, and meters long or tall. We are also just beginning a unit on collecting and recording data using various forms of graphs. Please help your child find all types of graphs in newspapers and magazines, etc. Later in the quarter we will be looking at place value in order to understand how to regroup while adding double-digit numerals. Please continue practicing addition and subtraction facts with your second grader at least four times a week, if not every day.

SCIENCE – Mrs. Anderson

The 2nd grade students have completed a unit on dinosaurs. We are working on matter and determining if something is a solid, liquid, or gas. We are classifying objects into one of those three categories. Next, we will be learning about physical properties of substances which includes color, size, shape, texture, hardness, liquid or solid, and if something sinks or floats. Objects and substances can be measured based on those properties. Our next unit will be on the surface features of Earth.

SOCIAL STUDIES – Mrs. Goodrow

Students are continuing to explore maps as we look at communities large and small. Students finished chapter 2 in their Social Studies book and would greatly benefit from being asked questions about the globe to retain what they have learned. They should be able to identify the equator, the compass rose, the in-between directions, the four hemispheres, the seven continents, and the four bodies of water, etc. They would also benefit from being asked to show you what states border other states. Students will be starting a new chapter that continues to look at communities. We will be looking at natural resources and how communities grow.

COMPUTER – Mrs. Goodrow

Students will continue to sharpen their typing skills using Jump Start Typing, and they will be exploring Power Point while learning to create their own slide show.

SPANISH – Mrs. Machniak

The second grade students will be learning about fruits and people this quarter. They will learn vocabulary for people and professions. We will continue to work on sight words and our mystery words.

RELIGION – Sr. Pat Magee, OP

Third Quarter Religion classes for Second grade will cover several lessons on forgiveness; that is who we forgive, why we forgive, and how we forgive. The story of the prodigal son is told and is very meaningful in these lessons. These will be followed by the lessons of the Last Supper and Christian's thanksgiving to God for sending Jesus to us. All of these lessons enfold into the meaning and practices of Lent and the glorious day of Easter.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – Mrs. Anderson

Students have been working on games and activities using loco motor movements. We have also played several games in which students practice striking objects with implements (i.e. paddle ball). We will continue to work with loco motor movements using various levels, pathways, and directions.

ART – Mrs. Machniak

The second grade students will be focusing on the art elements of space and form this quarter. They will be working with paper and taking it from two-dimensional to three-dimensional formats. They will be using pop-ups, origami, paper folding, and construction days. A special thank you to parent Jane Bailey, for submitting and securing a grant for "Picturing America," a program using beautiful art posters by American artists to teach across the content areas. We are enjoying using them! We are enjoying using them!

MUSIC – Mrs. Collings

We will continue to work on Mass music including the mass parts such as "Glory to God in the Highest". Our composers of the month will be J. S. Bach and Clara Schumann. Treble clef line and spaces will be reinforced with some games and worksheets. Dynamics (how loud and soft the music can get) will be reviewed with some new songs to practice. We will learn about the form of music –such as verse/refrain/verse - with songs like "Puff the Magic Dragon". We will talk about tempo- how slow or fast music can get, and maybe take out xylophones. The computer program Music Ace will continue to be part of our work; it teaches basic music theory in a fun way.

QUARTERLY CURRICULUM UPDATE

3RD GRADE

Third Quarter 2010

LANGUAGE ARTS – Mrs. Ledergerber

Can you believe that we are half way through this third grade year? We have learned a lot, but we have more to accomplish.

Last quarter the children were asked to read two nonfiction books and many discovered that they enjoyed nonfiction books. They discovered that nonfiction is more challenging to read. For this next quarter they need to continue to read nonfiction and fiction. I am asking them to read at least two nonfiction books this quarter. Also beginning this new quarter I have asked the children to increase their reading time to 20 minutes four times a week. Continue to fill out those bookmarks. Since the children are now required to complete book reviews after they have read a reader, remember that time spent on book reviews should be recorded on the bookmarks. I told the children that they should not need to be spending more than two days completing a book review after finishing a reader. They need to complete at least four book reviews. The children will continue to work independently and in small groups to practice their reading skills. We are currently reading aloud Mr. Popper's Penguin's. We read a chapter together the children and I are collaborating together to tell the key idea of the chapter. Sometimes this is a difficult skill for children because they want to retell everything, or it's a challenge to sort out what is the most important idea. You can help your child with this as you listen to them read or while reading to them. Stop the reading after a few paragraphs or a page and have your child tell you what the key ideas are at that point. We enjoyed our second read-in last week. Thanks for the food donations for our community snack mix.

We have almost finished learning the cursive lowercase alphabet. The children will need to write in cursive all the time. However, there will be some exceptions that the children will know. Since they do not know the cursive capital letters I will ask them to print capital letters when they need one. We will go on to learn cursive capital letters.

Your child may have shared with you that we are studying Boats and Ships across the curriculum. Then in April we will invite you to come and share an evening with us so that your child can share everything that they learned about boats/ships. That evening is scheduled for Thursday, April 29th. We are happy to say that we have always had 100% participation.

In grammar we are continuing to practice our skills in our Simple Solutions workbooks. We will begin a unit of study on linking verbs and adjectives. We are still having some challenges capitalizing, punctuating, and writing longer sentences.

As we move towards February keep in mind that we have our Open House and Parent Teacher Conferences. I look forward to seeing all of you.

MATH – Mrs. Goodrow

Students have been exploring perimeter and area and are now learning to write their own number models for both. In December, they learned to measure using both U.S. Standard Units and the Metric System and will continue to use those skills in determining perimeter and area. It would be very helpful if you would encourage your child to measure objects in your home using both systems on a daily basis. In the very near future, we will be starting a unit on multiplication in which students will learn to use number arrays to see the relationship between numbers in a multiplication problem. Please continue to practice multiplication facts with your child at least ten minutes four times a week in the car or at home as we will be covering division as well in the new quarter. Later in the quarter we will be examining place value and reading, writing, and ordering numbers through the millions. I am not sure if we will get into place value using decimals while I am still here; if not, that will be coming up. I am trying to incorporate all prior-learned skills into future lessons so students retain skills learned. Please continue to encourage your

child to turn in all homework on time.

SCIENCE – Mrs. Anderson

We have completed a unit on classification of organisms based on their observable physical characteristics. We are currently learning about natural resources and categorizing them as a renewable or non-renewable resource. Students will learn about the three “R’s” – **R**educe, **R**euse, **R**ecycle, and the impact that humans have had on the environment. Our next unit will be on the solid Earth, which will include rocks, soil, minerals, and water.

SOCIAL STUDIES – Mrs. Ledergerber

Our studies of Michigan history continues. We are finishing up with Michigan’s first people and then we will go onto the explorers who came to Michigan and then Michigan becoming a state.

COMPUTER – Mrs. Goodrow

Students will continue to sharpen their typing skills using Jump Start Typing, and they will be creating their own slide show featuring a country that they would like to visit.

RELIGION – Sr. Pat Magee, OP

Third Quarter Religion classes will offer to the Third Graders lessons on ‘God shares life with us’, some women of faith in the Bible, our celebration of God’s love in Eucharist, and God’s Call to us to share His healing love. These will flow and occur within the seasons of Lent and Easter bringing meaning to the Christian practices during this time of the year.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – Mrs. Anderson

Students have been working on games and activities using loco motor movements. We have also played several games in which students practice striking objects with implements (i.e. paddle ball). We will continue to work with loco motor movements using various levels, pathways, and directions.

ART – Mrs. Machniak

The third grade students will be focusing on the art elements of space and form this quarter. They will be highlighting the “boat” theme throughout the quarter. Students will be learning about the American artists Cassatt, Eakins and Lentze. A special thank you to parent Jane Bailey, for submitting and securing a grant for “Picturing America,” a program using beautiful art posters by American artists to teach across the content areas. We are enjoying using them! We are enjoying using them!

SPANISH – Mrs. Machniak

The third and fourth grades will be learning about sports this quarter and the irregular verbs of jugar (to play) and gustar (to like). They will also continue with sight words through the mini books and mystery phrases. We are beginning to translate simple sentences from Spanish to English and vice versa.

MUSIC – Mrs. Collings

We will continue to work on Mass music including the mass parts such as “Glory to God in the Highest”. Our composers of the month will be J. S. Bach and Clara Schumann. Treble clef line and spaces will be reinforced with some games and worksheets. Dynamics (how loud and soft the music can get) will be reviewed with some new songs to practice. We will learn about the form of music –such as verse/refrain/verse. We will talk about the difference between melody and harmony and learn to sing in rounds. Students will start a unit on instruments of the orchestra and will begin to look at how music can be divided into sets of 2, 3 and 4 beats per measure. The computer program Music Ace will continue to be part of our work; it teaches basic music theory in a fun way.

QUARTERLY CURRICULUM UPDATE

4TH GRADE

Third Quarter 2010

LANGUAGE ARTS – Mrs. Ledergerber

Where has the time gone? We have reached the half way point in fourth grade. We have learned much, but we have lots more to accomplish. We enjoyed our second read-in last week. Thank you for the snack donations for our community snack mix. As we move into this quarter I have asked the children to increase their reading time to 25 minutes four times a week. Reading Response Journals will be due weekly. Your child has a day of the week that they chose to turn in their journal. We spent time practicing the Journal Responses together, but in case your child forgets: there are reminders in the back of their journals. They can certainly come to me for help also. Any time that is spent on Reading Response Journals needs to be recorded on bookmarks. We have started our "Cocoa Breaks" and the children are very excited. The children choose a picture book to read and complete a project on the book. On "Cocoa Breaks" they present their book and project to the class. They will have some class time to work on these projects, but they may need to do some work at home. If they spend time at home it can be recorded on their bookmarks. We will be discussing the "classic", "fantasy" and "mystery" books. This quarter each student is required to read a classic, a fantasy, and one nonfiction book.

In grammar we will continue working on action and linking verbs and then move on to adjectives. As usual we will also review the skills that we previously learned.

Keep in mind that Open House in February and Parent Teacher Conferences will be taking place. I will look forward to seeing all of you.

MATH – Mrs. Goodrow

Students finished a unit that introduced algebraic concepts and are now working with decimals. They are learning to correctly read, write, compare, and order decimals, as well as add and subtract decimals. Students will be learning how to convert numbers using the metric system this quarter, and then we will start a unit on multiplication of larger numbers including powers of ten. At this time, students will be rounding numbers in the millions and trillions. Please continue to encourage your child to turn in all homework on time, and encourage practice of multiplication facts at home on a daily basis.

SOCIAL STUDIES – Mrs. Ledergerber

The children have been doing a great job with their states and capitals. They enjoy playing, "Around the States." We will soon be studying each of the four regions of the United States. We will begin with the Northeast Region.

SCIENCE – Mrs. Anderson

The fourth grade has completed a unit on electricity, electrical circuits, and animal adaptations and behaviors. We are now working with fossils. We have made casts and molds of the fossils to learn about the life and remains of each creature. Our next unit will be on space, including: objects in the sky and patterns of objects.

COMPUTER – Mrs. Goodrow

Students will continue to sharpen their typing skills using Jump Start Typing, and they will be creating a slide presentation appropriate for a preschool child to use as a learning tool to recognize the letters of the alphabet. Students in fourth grade will learn to attach action buttons to each slide causing the slides to toggle back and forth as the preschool child selects his/her choice of picture. I would like to present these to the Montessori teachers.

SPANISH – Mrs. Machniak

The third and fourth grades will be learning about sports this quarter and the irregular verbs of jugar (to play) and gustar (to like). They will also continue with sight words through the mini books and mystery phrases. We are beginning to translate simple sentences from Spanish to English and vice versa.

RELIGION – Sr. Pat Magee, OP

During Third Quarter the Fourth Graders will learn the Beatitudes, and also take a step back to re-see God's creation. The season of Lent arrives during this learning time so lessons presented will also be on forgiveness and the greatest commandment "Love God with your whole heart, your whole soul, your whole mind and your whole body. Love your neighbor as you love yourself". These lessons will bring a sense of what Lent is and what gifts it brings us.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – Mrs. Anderson

Students have been working on games and activities using loco motor movements. We have also played several games in which students practice striking objects with implements (i.e. paddle ball). We will continue to work with loco motor movements using various levels, pathways, and directions.

ART – Mrs. Machniak

The fourth grade students will be focusing on the art elements of space and form this quarter. They will be learning about perspective, grid drawing, gyutaku, and using clay. A special thank you to parent Jane Bailey for submitting and securing a grant for "Picturing America," a program using beautiful art posters by American artists to teach across the content areas. We are enjoying using them!

MUSIC – Mrs. Collings

We will continue to work on Mass music including the mass parts such as "Glory to God in the Highest". Our composers of the month will be J. S. Bach and Clara Schumann. Learning all the recorder notes is the biggest goal and I hope they are settling in with practicing recorder at home. Don't forget that there are accompaniments for the recorder belts on the school website- look under current families- then student works- then music links. Using recorder songs we will learn about musical roadmaps- symbols that tell you where to go in a piece of music- such as repeat signs and first and second endings. We will learn the difference between melody and harmony.

QUARTERLY CURRICULUM UPDATE

5TH GRADE

Third Quarter 2010

LANGUAGE ARTS – Mrs. Knape

Grammar and writing skills to be practiced include capitalization, abbreviations, subject/predicate agreement, and parts of speech usage. Journal writings provide opportunities to use these skills.

Students are asked to read 30 minutes daily and record this information in their planner.

Spelling tests continue to be on Tuesdays which is also the day Spelling homework will be due.

January's novel theme was historical fiction. Students were to create a visual display called "Book in a ..." where they were to complete the activity requirements given to them earlier in the month. Projects are to be turned in on January 29. Oral presentations on their books will take place in February. Look for a display of these projects at Open House on February 3rd.

MATH – Mrs. Knape

Unit 4: Division objectives include a review of division facts and extended fact knowledge, division of a decimal by a whole number, meaning and treatment of remainders in division problems, and solving division number stories and interpreting the remainders.

Unit 5 objectives include a review of the meanings of fraction, decimal, and percent notations for rational numbers, concentration on conversions among these notations, emphasizing the fact that within every fraction is a division problem, and drawing, measuring, and interpreting circle graphs.

Simple Solutions continues to provide opportunities to reinforce skills.

SCIENCE – Mrs. Anderson

The 5th grade students recently completed a unit on populations and communities within an ecosystem. We are now working on energy flow and biomes, relationships (predator/prey), food webs and energy pyramids. Our next unit will be on cycles in our environment, such as the water cycle, nitrogen cycle and the carbon cycle.

SOCIAL STUDIES – Mrs. Machniak

The fifth and sixth grade students will continue with the American colonies, the trading of enslaved people, and the Seven Years War. We then move into the beginnings of the American Revolution with leaders, ideas, and turning points.

COMPUTER – Mrs. Wathen

Our class has posted website reviews on our school wiki page (sjaschool.pbworks.com) for you to view. This quarter we will focus on computer programming. Using the Scratch program, we will learn programming concepts such as iteration, loops, conditional statements and coordinate mapping by creating computer games and animations. Scratch is a free program developed by education researchers at MIT and can be downloaded for home use at <http://scratch.mit.edu>.

SPANISH – Mrs. Machniak

The fifth and sixth grade will continue with question words examining how and when they are used, word order, and ways to ask for things and answer to others. We will be practicing these on paper and in conversation. With the Iowa's Test of Basic Skills and other events, vocabulary assignments will be sporadic.

RELIGION – Mrs. Machniak

The fifth and sixth grade students have been working on character development and qualities that help us to grow in positive directions. We have begun focusing on self-control and how it forms a foundation for the other qualities we want to develop. We will also be looking at trustworthiness, cooperation, self-confidence, and skills such as time-management and community building.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – Mrs. Anderson

Students are enjoying several games that increase will increase their cardiovascular levels. They are up to 4 laps around the field house track, which equals ½ mile, in anticipation of the Presidents Challenge on Physical Fitness.

ART – Mrs. Machniak

The fifth and sixth grade students will be focusing on the art elements of space and form this quarter. They will be using perspective, creating a technology project and work with plaster casting. A special thank you to parent Jane Bailey for submitting and securing a grant for "Picturing America," a program using beautiful art posters by American artists to teach across the content areas. We are enjoying using them!

MUSIC – Mrs. Collings

We will continue to work on Mass music including the mass parts such as "Glory to God in the Highest". Our composers of the month will be J. S. Bach and Clara Schumann. We will learn another Peanut Butter Jam song- these help us to work on reading rhythms, singing well and use xylophone accompaniments. We will learn about key signatures, chords and pick-ups in preparation for using some music notation software in the computer lab. If we have time we will even take out the boom whackers for a song or two.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

6TH GRADE

Third Quarter 2010

LANGUAGE ARTS – Mrs. Knape

Grammar and writing skills to be practiced include punctuation, verb tenses, abbreviations, and types of sentences; Journal writings provide opportunities to use these skills.

Students are asked to read 30 minutes daily and record this information in their planner.

Spelling tests continue to be on Tuesdays, which is also the day Spelling homework will be due.

January's novel theme was historical fiction. Students were asked to create a visual display called "Book in a ..." where they were to complete the activity requirements given to them earlier in the month. Projects are to be turned in on January 29. Oral presentations on their books will take place in February. Look for a display of these projects at Open House on February 3rd.

MATH – Mrs. Knape

Unit 3 areas of focus: 1) to use variables to describe number patterns, 2) to write and evaluate algebraic equations, 3) to use tables, formulas, and graphs for making predictions, drawing conclusions, and analyzing real-life situations, 4) to develop strategies for multiplying and dividing decimals.

Unit 4 objectives include a review of notations for rational numbers-fractions, mixed numbers, decimals, and percents, a review on ordering fractions, a review of operations with fractions and mixed numbers, and a review of the meaning and uses of percents.

Simple Solutions continues to provide opportunities to reinforce skills.

SCIENCE – Mrs. Anderson

The 6th grade students recently completed a unit on populations and communities within an ecosystem. We are now working on energy flow and biomes, relationships (predator/prey), food webs and energy pyramids. Our next unit will be on cycles in our environment, such as the water cycle, nitrogen cycle and the carbon cycle

SPANISH – Mrs. Machniak

The fifth and sixth grade will continue with question words examining how and when they are used, word order, and ways to ask for things and answer to others. We will be practicing these on paper and in conversation. With the Iowa's Test of Basic Skills and other events, vocabulary assignments will be sporadic.

SOCIAL STUDIES – Mrs. Machniak

The fifth and sixth grade students will continue with the American colonies, the trading of enslaved people, and the Seven Years War. We then move into the beginnings of the American Revolution with leaders, ideas, and turning points.

COMPUTER – Mrs. Wathen

Our class has posted website reviews on our school wiki page (sjaschool.pbworks.com) for you to view. This quarter we will focus on computer programming. Using the Scratch program, we will learn programming concepts such as iteration, loops, conditional statements and coordinate mapping by creating computer games and animations. Scratch is a free program developed by education researchers at MIT and can be downloaded for home use at <http://scratch.mit.edu>.

RELIGION – Mrs. Machniak

The fifth and sixth grade students have been working on character development and qualities that help us to grow in positive directions. We have begun focusing on self-control and how it forms a foundation for the other qualities we want to develop. We will also be looking at trustworthiness, cooperation, self-confidence, and skills such as time-management and community building.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – Mrs. Anderson

Students are enjoying several games that increase will increase their cardiovascular levels. They are up to 4 laps around the field house track, which equals ½ mile, in anticipation of the Presidents Challenge on Physical Fitness.

ART – Mrs. Machniak

The fifth and sixth grade students will be focusing on the art elements of space and form this quarter. They will be using perspective, creating a technology project and work with plaster casting. A special thank you to parent Jane Bailey for submitting and securing a grant for "Picturing America," a program using beautiful art posters by American artists to teach across the content areas. We are enjoying using them!

MUSIC – Mrs. Collings

We will continue to work on Mass music including the mass parts such as "Glory to God in the Highest". Our composers of the month will be J. S. Bach and Clara Schumann. We will learn another Peanut Butter Jam song- these help us to work on reading rhythms, singing well and use xylophone accompaniments. We will learn about key signatures, chords and pick-ups in preparation for using some music notation software in the computer lab. If we have time we will even take out the boom whackers for a song or two.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

7TH GRADE

Third Quarter 2010

LANGUAGE ARTS – Mrs. Knape

Grammar and writing skills to be practiced include types of pronouns, parts of speech, punctuation, and sentence structures. Journal writings provide opportunities to use these skills.

Students are asked to read 30 minutes daily and record this information in their planner.

Spelling tests continue to be on Tuesdays which is also the day Spelling homework will be due.

7th /8th graders are doing a unit on the Holocaust. A brief background of the era provided a foundation for our learning. A reading of the drama "Anne Frank" will be complimented by a reading of a book about her life experiences.

Each student has selected a book about the Holocaust for their January project "Book in a ..." Presentations will be both visual and oral and will follow the format given to them earlier in the month. Projects are to be turned in January 29th and will be displayed at Open House on February 3.

MATH – Mrs. Knape

Areas of focus for Chapter 7 and 8: 1) to compute with fractions and mixed numbers, 2) to solve problems by using patterns, 3) to recognize and extend arithmetic and geometric sequences, 4) to find the areas of triangles and trapezoids, the circumference of circles, 5) to solve equations and inequalities involving rational numbers, 6) to solve problems by using proportions and percents.

Simple Solutions continues to provide skill practice as students need to think critically about each problem before solving it.

SCIENCE – Mrs. Anderson

The students just completed a unit on the atmosphere. We are now taking the opportunity to learn about earthquakes, due to recent current events.

We will continue exploring weather and then transition into the biology of plants and animals.

SOCIAL STUDIES – Mrs. Machniak

The seventh and eighth grade students are moving into the Early Middle Ages with the Germans, Franks, Irish, and Vikings. From there we will examine the Byzantine Empire, the Spread of Islam, and the Eastern Slavs. We will end the quarter with the Late Middle Ages as we learn about feudal societies, the church, the rise of trade and towns as well as monarchies. This will set the stage for the last quarter as we look at the beginning of modern times beginning with the Renaissance.

COMPUTER – Mrs. Wathen

Last quarter our students focused on hardware by building two working computers from scratch. Have your student show you their handiwork at Open House! This quarter our class will learn about different software applications, including those for 3D modeling and photo editing.

SPANISH – Mrs. Machniak

The seventh and eighth grade will continue with the irregular verbs "ser" and "estar" more in depth. We will be adding the verbs "tener" and "ir" to our list of commonly used verbs to become familiar with as well. We will be practicing these verbs on paper and in conversation. With the Iowa Test of Basic Skills and other events, vocabulary assignments will be sporadic.

RELIGION – Mrs. Machniak

The seventh and eighth grade has begun the book Three Cups of Tea (young adult version) by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin. The book is of Greg Mortenson's journey to build peace through education by promoting peace with books, not bombs in Afghanistan and Pakistan. In our efforts to help students recognize the impact they can have in the world, we are participating in the Pennies for Peace project which was begun by children to help students across the globe.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – Mrs. Anderson

Students are enjoying several games that increase will increase their cardiovascular levels. They are up to 4 laps around the field house track, which equals ½ mile, in anticipation of the Presidents Challenge on Physical Fitness.

ART – Mrs. Machniak

The seventh and eighth grade students will be focusing on the art elements of space and form this quarter. They will be working with clay, creating trading cards and creating a technology project. A special thank you to parent Jane Bailey for submitting and securing a grant for "Picturing America," a program using beautiful art posters by American artists to teach across the content areas. We are enjoying using them!

MUSIC – Mrs. Collings

We will continue to work on Mass music including the mass parts such as "Glory to God in the Highest". Our theory packets have had us learning about musical notation including dotted rhythms, dynamics, slurs and ties and tempo. We will add key signatures, chords and pickups before utilizing all these concepts in the computer lab with some music software and websites.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

8TH GRADE

Third Quarter 2010

LANGUAGE ARTS – Mrs. Knape

Grammar and writing skills to be practiced include clauses, phrases, sentence structure, verb conjugation, and punctuation. Journal writings provide opportunities to use these skills.

Students are asked to read 30 minutes daily and record this information in their planner.

Spelling tests continue to be on Tuesdays which is also the day Spelling homework will be due.

7th /8th graders are doing a unit on the Holocaust. A brief background of the era provided a foundation for our learning. A reading of the drama "Anne Frank" will be complimented by a reading of a book about her life experiences.

Each student has selected a book about the Holocaust for their January project "Book in a ..." Presentations will be both visual and oral and will follow the format given to them earlier in the month. Projects are to be turned in January 29th and will be displayed at Open House on February 3.

MATH – Mrs. Knape

Students are working with Algebraic and Geometric concepts on an individual level. Skill areas will include operations with monomials and polynomials, factoring numbers and exploring quadratic functions.

Simple Solutions continues to provide skill practice as students need to think critically about each problem before solving it.

SCIENCE – Mrs. Anderson

The students just completed a unit on the atmosphere. We are now taking the opportunity to learn about earthquakes, due to recent current events.

We will continue exploring weather and then transition into the biology of plants and animals.

COMPUTER – Mrs. Wathen

Last quarter our students focused on hardware by building two working computers from scratch-- have your student show you their handiwork at Open House! This quarter our class will learn about different software applications, including those for 3D modeling and photo editing.

SOCIAL STUDIES – Mrs. Machniak

The seventh and eighth grade students are moving into the Early Middle Ages with the Germans, Franks, Irish, and Vikings. From there we will examine the Byzantine Empire, the Spread of Islam, and the Eastern Slavs. We will end the quarter with the Late Middle Ages as we learn about feudal societies, the church, the rise of trade and towns as well as monarchies. This will set the stage for the last quarter as we look at the beginning of modern times beginning with the Renaissance.

SPANISH – Mrs. Machniak

The seventh and eighth grade will continue with the irregular verbs "ser" and "estar" more in depth. We will be adding the verbs "tener" and "ir" to our list of commonly used verbs to become familiar with as well. We will be practicing these verbs on paper and in conversation. With the Iowa Test of Basic Skills and other events, vocabulary assignments will be sporadic.

RELIGION – Mrs. Machniak

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