

# QUARTERLY CURRICULUM UPDATE

## 1ST GRADE

### Fourth Quarter 2010

#### **LANGUAGE ARTS – Mrs. Ewert**

Please continue listening to your child read for at least fifteen minutes per evening. The more a child reads the more confident and fluent they become; after your child reads ask about the story. "What happened at the beginning, middle and end?" "Was there a problem in the story?" "Was there a solution?"

We will be concentrating on one and two syllable words, nouns, pronouns, contractions and conjunctions (because, if, after, etc.) We will be writing sentences using the different punctuation marks and using more sequence words (before, after, etc.) in our writing.

As spring approaches we tend to get spring fever and the quality of the children's work decreases. Please encourage your child to do their best every day.

#### **MATH – Mrs. Zaszczurynski**

The fourth quarter is here and the first graders are moving along in their math skills. In the fourth quarter we will continue working on addition and subtraction facts. Please work with your child each night on their math facts; they will be kept in their reading folder. This practice should last about 5 minutes each night. The more they memorize their facts the easier other math concepts will become.

We will also continue to work with money (including dimes). We will work with pennies, nickels, and dimes, so please continue to ask your child if you have change in your pocket to help you count how much you have. Towards the end of the school year we will work with geometry and shapes. This will include using pattern blocks to help make these shapes and geometric figures more concrete.

#### **SCIENCE – Mrs. Anderson**

The first grade students will be studying weather and how it changes from day to day and over the seasons. Students will also use tools to observe and record the weather, as well as predict changes. They will also identify severe weather characteristics and describe the precautions that should be taken for human safety during severe weather conditions.

#### **SOCIAL STUDIES – Mrs. Zaszczurynski**

First graders will continue working on their mapping skills. We continue to look at different views of maps. We will also study people at work and money. Students will discuss needs and wants of people and also talk about goods and services. We will work on our graph reading skills and sorting skills.

#### **COMPUTER – Mrs. Zaszczurynski**

The first graders have begun an ABC PowerPoint using Google Images to help them learn how to copy and paste. After we finish this we will be practicing our typing skills using JumpStart Typing. Please encourage your student to use the home row keys if they are typing at home.

#### **SPANISH – Mrs. Machniak**

The first grade will be learning vocabulary for food items and clothing. They will also be learning about the country of Mexico, its geography, people and culture.

#### **RELIGION – Mrs. Quick**

No religion update available at this time due to substitute teacher.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION – Mrs. Anderson**

First grade students will be working on components of the President's Challenge Physical Fitness Program. They include flexibility (sit & reach), abdominal strength (curl-ups), cardiovascular endurance (one mile run), upper body strength (flexed arm hang and pull ups), and the speed component (shuttle run).

**ART – Mrs. Machniak**

Students will be working with the elements and principles of pattern, repetition and movement. The young artists will be learning to weave with paper, stamp with everyday items, continue to practice using paint and even try some basic origami.

**MUSIC – Mrs. Collings**

We will continue to work on learning our mass songs one more new song to learn and reviewing songs we've already learned so we don't forget them. Our composers of the month will be Gilbert and Sullivan, and John Williams. The musical alphabet is next as far as music theory goes, and starting to notice how notes can go up and down, and slow and fast in a song. We will keep working on maintaining a steady beat. We will have fun with our classroom instruments now that we know them all.

# QUARTERLY CURRICULUM UPDATE

## 2ND GRADE

### Fourth Quarter 2010

#### **LANGUAGE ARTS – Mrs. Ewert**

Encourage your child to read with inflection, pauses, and emphasis. Please continue listening to your child read for at least fifteen minutes per evening. The more a child reads the more confident and fluent they become. After reading, discuss cause and effect, or the author's purpose for writing it.

We will be concentrating on commas, prefixes, suffixes, metaphors, similes, and evaluating messages from the media to determine if information is factual or opinion. We will be beginning research projects soon. Please encourage and assist your child in locating facts on the animal he/she chooses. Our writing continues to focus on writing letters and writing in first or third person and practicing paragraph style.

As spring approaches we tend to get spring fever, the quality of the children's work decreases, please encourage your child to their best every day.

#### **MATH – Mrs. Zaszczurynski**

Wow! The second graders are doing a fantastic job adding and subtracting two digit numbers using carrying and borrowing (or regrouping). We will continue to work on these skills into the fourth quarter, eventually moving into adding three digit numbers.

In the fourth quarter, students will be introduced to fractions which will include fractions on a clock, telling time to the half hour and quarter hour. The second graders have set a goal to introduce themselves to multiplication by the end of the school year. To meet this goal they must master their addition and subtraction facts. Please continue to practice addition and subtraction facts each night at home. Remember this practice should only last about 5 minutes.

#### **SCIENCE – Mrs. Anderson**

The second grade students will be working on "Solid Earth" and changes taking place due to slow processes, such as weathering and erosion and changes due to rapid processes, such as landslides, volcanic eruptions, and earthquakes. They will also identify water sources, such as wells, springs, lakes, rivers, and oceans, and identify household uses of water.

#### **SOCIAL STUDIES – Mrs. Zaszczurynski**

Second graders will continue to work on natural resources and learn how natural resources are used in urban and rural areas. We will be discussing specific resources available in certain areas. As we talk about these areas we will begin talking about the local government that controls these resources. We will end the year discussing our national government and the way it operates.

#### **COMPUTER – Mrs. Zaszczurynski**

The second graders have begun an ABC PowerPoint using Google Images to help them learn how to copy and paste. After we finish this we will be practicing our typing skills with JumpStart Typing. Please encourage your student to use the home row keys if they are typing at home.

#### **SPANISH – Mrs. Machniak**

The second grade will be learning vocabulary for people and mini-book site words. They will also be

learning about the country of Spain, its geography, people and culture.

**RELIGION – Mrs. Quick**

No religion update available due to substitute teacher.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION – Mrs. Anderson**

Second grade students will be working on components of the President's Challenge Physical Fitness Program. They include flexibility (sit & reach), abdominal strength (curl-ups), cardiovascular endurance (one mile run), upper body strength (flexed arm hang and pull ups), and the speed component (shuttle run).

**ART – Mrs. Machniak**

Students will be working with the elements and principles of pattern, repetition and movement. These enthusiastic young artists will be learning to weave with a cardboard loom, stamp printing, and discovering more about people in motion.

**MUSIC – Mrs. Collings**

We will continue to work on learning our mass songs one more new song to learn and reviewing songs we've already learned so we don't forget them. Our composers of the month will be Gilbert and Sullivan, and John Williams. We have worked hard to learn the notes of the treble clef and will keep reinforcing these, as well as quarter, half, and whole notes and rests. We will also review dynamics and use some of our classroom instruments to go with songs.

# QUARTERLY CURRICULUM UPDATE

## 3RD GRADE

### Fourth Quarter 2010

#### **LANGUAGE ARTS – Mrs. Ledergerber**

It's hard to believe that our last quarter is here and the school year will be winding down. It has been an exciting journey to watch the children grow in so many ways.

April is poetry month, so we will be doing more with poetry. We will have more "poetry passes" which the children enjoy. Have your child explain what a "poetry pass" is to you.

We have been learning about boats and ships. Please mark your calendar for Thursday, April 29 6:30pm-8:00pm to attend, "Boat Night." We look forward to sharing this special evening with you and your child. We have been working our way through the cursive capital letters and we should have them all learned soon. I have asked the children to write in cursive all the time, with some exceptions.

Continue to encourage your child to keep up with their reading. This quarter the children will be required to complete book reviews on their first four readers. Often, as we begin the fourth quarter many of the children start getting spring fever and ease up on the quality of their work. Let's stay focused because we still have lots of learning to do. We enjoyed our third Read-In last week. A big thanks for the items for our community snack mix.

I'd also like to thank the families who have brought in donations for our classroom gala basket, "All Hands on Deck."

#### **MATH – Mrs. Zaszczurynski**

Third graders have been practicing hard on their multiplication facts and we are just beginning division. Students should still be practicing their multiplication and division facts nightly for about 5 minutes. It is important to have these mastered, so that as concepts become more complex the students don't have to think as long about the simple facts. As we move toward the end of the year, the students will be working with multiple digits for multiplication and using remainders with division. Once again, it is very important for students to memorize their multiplication and division facts.

Using their multiplication and division the students will move into fractions. This will include adding and subtracting fractions and using them on a clock. We are really looking forward to fractions.

#### **SCIENCE – Mrs. Anderson**

Third grade students will be working on light and sound as forms of energy that travel in waves. Our study of light will include the path that light travels in, and the conductive and reflective properties, as well as the structure of the eye. Sound will include vibration and pitch, and a study of the ear.

#### **SOCIAL STUDIES – Mrs. Ledergerber**

We've been studying the explorers of Michigan and then we will be moving on and discussing how Michigan became a state.

#### **COMPUTER – Mrs. Zaszczurynski**

Third graders will be using Storybook computer software to compose a class book on boats and ships they've been studying. They are very excited about this and cannot wait to share them with their families. We will continue to work on JumpStart Typing so that students can type with ease and confidence. It is important that these skills are learned now so they can become proficient.

**RELIGION – Mrs. Quick**

No religion update available due to substitute teacher.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION – Mrs. Anderson**

Third grade students will be working on components of the President's Challenge Physical Fitness Program. They include flexibility (sit & reach), abdominal strength (curl-ups), cardiovascular endurance (one mile run), upper body strength (flexed arm hang and pull ups), and the speed component (shuttle run).

**ART – Mrs. Machniak**

Students will be working with the elements and principles of pattern, repetition and movement. These creative young artists will be working with scored paper, animation and technology.

**SPANISH – Mrs. Machniak**

The third grade will be learning vocabulary for professions and sports verbs. They will also be learning about the country of Peru, its geography, people and culture.

**MUSIC – Mrs. Collings**

We will continue to work on learning our mass songs one more new song to learn and reviewing songs we've already learned so we don't forget them. Our composers of the month will be Gilbert and Sullivan, and John Williams. We have worked hard to learn the notes of the treble clef and will keep reinforcing these, as well as quarter, half, and whole notes and rests. We will learn words that describe tempo in music and also learn how to get the best singing tone from our bodies. A unit on instruments of the orchestra is also next; this should be fun for us. It's time to get ready for Academy Awards and our song will be "Say What" –very silly!

# QUARTERLY CURRICULUM UPDATE

## 4TH GRADE

### Fourth Quarter 2010

#### **LANGUAGE ARTS – Mrs. Ledergerber**

It's amazing to me that the fourth quarter is already upon us and the school year will be winding down. I've enjoyed being a part of your child's educational journey.

Our "Cocoa Breaks" have been a lot of fun. The children said they enjoyed doing them, except for the times that they had to get up and talk about their book to the class.

We have shared some wonderful picture books, and I especially enjoyed the projects. I believe stepping into the role of the main character was their favorite. Big thanks to those who donated the hot cocoa for our Cocoa Breaks.

April is poetry month, so we will be doing more with poetry. We will do our "poetry passes" which the children enjoy.

Continue to encourage your child to keep up with their reading and their reading response journals. During this last quarter I have asked the children to read a mystery and a Newbery book. Often as fourth quarter begins some children get spring fever and begin to ease up on the quality of their work. Let's stay focused because we have lots of learning to do.

Very big thanks to the families who have brought in donations for our classroom gala basket, "All Hands on Deck."

#### **MATH – Mrs. Zaszczurynski**

The fourth graders are mastering their multi-digit multiplication. This is challenging but they are excelling at it. Following multiplication, we will again tackle division; using more numbers in the quotient. This is a process as we add more numbers to the quotient.

Following division we will work with statistics and probability. This will involve a lot of graphs and prediction. This will move us into fractions. Students will practice writing fractions as mixed numbers and as standard fractions. We will work on reducing fractions. It is important that students have their multiplication and division facts memorized so that reducing fractions becomes simpler. Please keep practicing multiplication and division each night so that students are efficient in their facts.

#### **SOCIAL STUDIES – Mrs. Ledergerber**

We continue to explore the regions of the United States. The children have made wonderful progress learning the states and capitals. Our goal is to learn all 50 by the end of May.

#### **SCIENCE – Mrs. Anderson**

Fourth grade students will be working on a unit with the solar system. They will study the Sun, Moon, and Earth and their characteristics. Students will learn about orbits, rotation, revolution, and other objects in the sky.

#### **COMPUTER – Mrs. Zaszczurynski**

Fourth grade students will be working with Microsoft Excel. They will learn to make graphs using data that they collect. Students will begin working on becoming more comfortable navigating the internet. We will continue to use JumpStart Typing to practice keyboarding skills.

**SPANISH – Mrs. Machniak**

The fourth grade will be learning vocabulary for professions and sports verbs. They will be learning about the country of Peru, its geography, people and culture.

**RELIGION – Mrs. Quick**

No religion update available due to substitute teacher.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION – Mrs. Anderson**

Fourth grade students will be working on components of the President's Challenge Physical Fitness Program. They include flexibility (sit & reach), abdominal strength (curl-ups), cardiovascular endurance (one mile run), upper body strength (flexed arm hang and pull ups), and the speed component (shuttle run).

**ART – Mrs. Machniak**

Students will be working with the elements and principles of pattern, repetition and movement. These excited young artists will be experimenting with mosaics, clay and construction. Students will be introduced to Italian art and bookmaking.

**MUSIC – Mrs. Collings**

We will continue to work on learning our mass songs one more new song to learn and reviewing songs we've already learned so we don't forget them. Our composers of the month will be Gilbert and Sullivan, and John Williams. Dotted notes have been a huge leap for us- mastered successfully and we will continue to reinforce them. Of course our major goal for the year has been the recorder; don't forget to practice at home and have the logs signed. I also sent home a song we for them to practice on their recorder at home. We will use recorder songs to continue to work on musical road maps and musical markings like staccato and accents.

# QUARTERLY CURRICULUM UPDATE

## 5TH GRADE

### Fourth Quarter 2010

#### **LANGUAGE ARTS – Mrs. Knape**

April is Poetry Month which will provide students opportunities to read and write various types of poetry. In addition, each student will choose a poem which is about 10 lines in length. After conferencing with me about their selection, students are to memorize their poem, in preparation for a Poetry Recital to be held the week of April 26.

The May novel unit, using book sets from the classroom, will use Literature Circles as the discussion format. Grammar lessons will continue to be presented through student writings and Simple Solutions for Language Arts. Spelling units will be completed by the end of May.

#### **MATH – Mrs. Knape**

Unit 6 continues to work with data from surveys to find standard landmarks and make stem and leaf plots. Students will add and subtract fractions with like and unlike denominators.

Unit 7 objectives include learning the notational conventions associated with exponents, the use of parentheses and rules of order of operation, and also comparing, adding, and subtracting positive and negative numbers.

In Unit 8, students will review fractions and ratios, as well as estimating and calculating a percent of a number.

#### **SCIENCE – Mrs. Anderson**

Fifth grade students will be working on Composition, Properties, and Changes of the Earth. Specifically, they will be covering what materials and minerals make up rocks, the different types of rock, and the rock cycle. They will learn about the composition of soil and the physical and chemical weathering leading to erosion and the formation of soil. Following that, students will be learning about seasons, the solar system and tides.

#### **SOCIAL STUDIES – Mrs. Machniak**

The fifth grade will be completing the year with the American Revolution, the development of our government and the writing of the Constitution. Students will be sharing their "scrapbooks" in character dress as we learn more about the famous people who impacted the development of our country.

#### **COMPUTER – Mrs. Wathen**

Students have enjoyed learning how to make animations with the Scratch programming language--we are learning about functions such as broadcasting variables, loops and if-then statements. During the 4th quarter we will be creating an interactive video game using Scratch. If time allows, the students will explore multimedia creations by producing either a podcast using the Audacity software or a slideshow using Windows Movie Maker.

#### **SPANISH – Mrs. Machniak**

The fifth grade will be learning to conjugate -ar verbs. We will be learning about famous people with Latino heritage. The students will be exploring Puerto Rico, its geography, people and culture.

#### **RELIGION – Mrs. Machniak**

The fifth grade students will be covering the Eucharist, the Mass, Pentecost and the Holy Spirit. Happy

Easter!!

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION – Mrs. Anderson**

Fifth grade students will be working on components of the President's Challenge Physical Fitness Program. They include flexibility (sit & reach), abdominal strength (curl-ups), cardiovascular endurance (one mile run), upper body strength (flexed arm hang and pull ups), and the speed component (shuttle run).

**ART – Mrs. Machniak**

Students will be working with the elements and principles of pattern, repetition and movement. These incredible young artists will be working with plaster casting, sculpture and computer designs.

**MUSIC – Mrs. Collings**

We will continue to work on learning our mass songs one more new song to learn and reviewing songs we've already learned so we don't forget them. Our composers of the month will be Gilbert and Sullivan, and John Williams. A major focus will be on learning our Academy Award song- "We Go Together" as it involves singing and instruments. We will be working on learning to notate music using the software "Finale", and using "Jamstudio" to learn about chords in a song in the computer lab.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

## 6TH GRADE

### Fourth Quarter 2010

#### **LANGUAGE ARTS – Mrs. Knape**

Grammar lessons continue to be presented through student writing assignments and Simple Solutions for Language Arts.

Opportunities to read and write poetry will be the focus for April. In addition to creating their own poems, students will each choose a poem of about 12 lines to memorize. After a poem has been selected, students will conference with me as to the appropriateness of their poem. A Poetry Recital will be held the week of April 26 for students to share their memorized poems.

The May novel unit will be small group Literature Circles, using book sets from the room. Spelling units will continue through the end of May.

#### **MATH – Mrs. Knape**

Unit 5 areas of focus: 1) to classify and draw angles, 2) to estimate the measure of angles with and without tools, 3) to find angle measures and write equations by applying properties of orientations of angles and sums of angle measures in triangles and quadrangles, 4) to identify and describe congruent figures as well as to construct them.

Unit 6 objectives include reviewing multiplication of fractions and mixed numbers, introduction of an algorithm for division of fractions, as well as performing basic operations with positive and negative numbers.

Probability, ratios, and simplification of algebraic expressions will finish our math studies this year.

#### **SCIENCE – Mrs. Anderson**

Sixth grade students will be working on Composition, Properties, and Changes of the Earth. Specifically, they will be covering what materials and minerals make up rocks, the different types of rock, and the rock cycle. They will learn about the composition of soil and the physical and chemical weathering leading to erosion and the formation of soil. Following that, students will be learning about seasons, the solar system and tides.

#### **SPANISH – Mrs. Machniak**

The sixth grade will be learning to conjugate -ar verbs. We will be learning about famous people with Latino heritage. The students will be exploring Puerto Rico, its geography, people and culture.

#### **SOCIAL STUDIES – Mrs. Machniak**

The sixth grade will be completing the year with the American Revolution, the development of our government and the writing of the Constitution. Students will be sharing their "scrapbooks" in character dress as we learn more about the famous people who impacted the development of our country.

#### **COMPUTER – Mrs. Wathen**

Students have enjoyed learning how to make animations with the Scratch programming language--we are learning about functions such as broadcasting variables, loops and if-then statements. During the 4th quarter we will be creating an interactive video game using Scratch. If time allows, the students will explore multimedia creations by producing either a podcast using the Audacity software or a slideshow using Windows Movie Maker.

**RELIGION – Mrs. Machniak**

The sixth grade students will be covering the Eucharist, the Mass, Pentecost and the Holy Spirit. Happy Easter!!

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION – Mrs. Anderson**

Sixth grade students will be working on components of the President's Challenge Physical Fitness Program. They include flexibility (sit & reach), abdominal strength (curl-ups), cardiovascular endurance (one mile run), upper body strength (flexed arm hang and pull ups), and the speed component (shuttle run).

**ART – Mrs. Machniak**

Students will be working with the elements and principles of pattern, repetition and movement. These incredible young artists will be working with plaster casting, sculpture and computer designs.

**MUSIC – Mrs. Collings**

We will continue to work on learning our mass songs one more new song to learn and reviewing songs we've already learned so we don't forget them. Our composers of the month will be Gilbert and Sullivan, and John Williams. A major focus will be on learning our Academy Award song- "We Go Together" as it involves singing and instruments. We will be working on learning to notate music using the software "Finale", and using "Jamstudio" to learn about chords in a song in the computer lab.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

## 7TH GRADE

### Fourth Quarter 2010

#### **LANGUAGE ARTS – Mrs. Knape**

April is Poetry Month which will provide students opportunities to read and write various types of poetry. In addition, each student will choose a poem that is about 14 lines in length to memorize. After selecting a poem, students will conference with me as to the appropriateness of their choice. A Poetry Recital will be held the week of April 26 for students to present their memorized poems.

The May novel selection, Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, will be done as a group, where students will be in charge of their reading schedule and discussing what they've read.

Simple Solutions for Language Arts continues to challenge student is grammar skills. Spelling units will go through the end of May.

#### **MATH – Mrs. Knape**

Areas of focus:

Chapter 9:

- 1) To estimate and find square roots
- 2) To identify and classify numbers
- 3) To solve problems by drawing a diagram.

Chapter 10: Students will learn to find solutions of equations with two variables. Geometry, probability, and a look at polynomials will complete our Math studies this year.

#### **SCIENCE – Mrs. Anderson**

Seventh grade students will be working on sound waves, parts of the ear, light waves, and how they travel. They will also be working on solar energy effects and the nuclear reactions taking place in the sun which produce heat and light. After the conclusion of sound and light waves, they will have a unit on simple machines.

#### **SOCIAL STUDIES – Mrs. Machniak**

The seventh grade will be completing the Middle Ages in the latter half of April with a Renaissance feast and activities. They will complete the year with the Renaissance and Reformation, and expansion into the Americas.

#### **COMPUTER – Mrs. Wathen**

Students have been creating various 3D models using the Google SketchUp program. It is very tricky learning how to coordinate objects in 3 dimensions, but students are doing a great job! After class presentations of their models, we will work on a final project for the year. Students will be designing their own project that will integrate some of the many skills and programs we have explored this school year, including podcasting, movie editing and multimedia presentation.

#### **SPANISH – Mrs. Machniak**

The seventh grade will be learning about famous people with Latino heritage. They will be reading simple books with increased fluency, and writing simple sentences and paragraphs about themselves and their interests.

**RELIGION – Mrs. Machniak**

The seventh grade students will be covering the letters of James and the Hebrews, and Revelations. Happy Easter!!

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION – Mrs. Anderson**

Seventh grade students will be working on components of the President's Challenge Physical Fitness Program. They include flexibility (sit & reach), abdominal strength (curl-ups), cardiovascular endurance (one mile run), upper body strength (flexed arm hang and pull ups), and the speed component (shuttle run).

**ART – Mrs. Machniak**

Students will be working with the elements and principles of pattern, repetition and movement. Students will be working with stamp design, mud cloth printing and clay.

**MUSIC – Mrs. Collings**

We will continue to work on learning our mass songs one more new song to learn and reviewing songs we've already learned so we don't forget them. We will be finishing up our unit on composer PPTs. They have been working hard to put together a 10 minute presentation on how their chosen composer was influenced by his historical times and how he influenced that era. After that we will either be working on learning to notate music using the software "Finale" and using "Jamstudio" to learn about chords in a song in the computer lab- or doing some lessons on the history of Rock and Roll.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

## 8TH GRADE

### Fourth Quarter 2010

#### **LANGUAGE ARTS – Mrs. Knape**

Student opportunities to read and write various types of poetry will be the April focus, which is also known as Poetry Month. In addition, each student will choose a poem that is about 16 lines in length to memorize. After selecting a poem, together we will confer as to the appropriateness of their choice. A Poetry Recital will be held the week of April 26 for students to share the memorized poems.

The May novel selection, Flowers for Algernon, will mix group and individualized opportunities to discuss this interesting story.

Simple Solutions for Language Arts continues to sharpen and challenge grammar skills. Spelling units will end the last week of May.

#### **ALGEBRA – Mrs. Knape**

Independent study allows for students to move through the curriculum at their own pace. Work being covered will include various factoring opportunities in Algebra 1 and multiple skills in Geometry.

Simple Solutions continues to provide practice in all math areas as a refresher for previously learned skills as well as leading to a more positive attitude toward math.

#### **SCIENCE – Mrs. Anderson**

Eight grade students will be working on sound waves, parts of the ear, light waves, and how they travel. They will also be working on solar energy effects and the nuclear reactions taking place in the sun which produce heat and light. After the conclusion of sound and light waves, they will have a unit on simple machines.

#### **COMPUTER – Mrs. Wathen**

Students have been creating various 3D models using the Google SketchUp program. It is very tricky learning how to coordinate objects in 3 dimensions, but students are doing a great job! After class presentations of their models, we will work on a final project for the year. Students will be designing their own project that will integrate some of the many skills and programs we have explored this school year, including podcasting, movie editing and multimedia presentation.

#### **SOCIAL STUDIES – Mrs. Machniak**

The eighth grade will be completing the Middle Ages in the latter half of April with a Renaissance feast and activities. They will complete the year with the Renaissance and Reformation, and expansion into the Americas.

#### **SPANISH – Mrs. Machniak**

The eighth grade will be learning about famous people with Latino heritage. They will be reading simple books with increased fluency, and writing simple sentences and paragraphs about themselves and their interests.

#### **RELIGION – Mrs. Machniak**

The eighth grade students will be covering the letters of James and the Hebrews, and Revelations. Happy Easter!!

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION – Mrs. Anderson**

Eighth grade students will be working on components of the President's Challenge Physical Fitness Program. They include flexibility (sit & reach), abdominal strength (curl-ups), cardiovascular endurance (one mile run), upper body strength (flexed arm hang and pull ups), and the speed component (shuttle run).

**ART – Mrs. Machniak**

Eighth grade students will be working with the elements and principles of pattern, repetition and movement. Students will be working with stamp design, mud cloth printing and clay.

**MUSIC – Mrs. Collings**

We will continue to work on learning our mass songs one more new song to learn and reviewing songs we've already learned so we don't forget them. We will be finishing up our unit on composer PPTs. They have been working hard to put together a 10 minute presentation on how their chosen composer was influenced by his historical times and how he influenced that era. After that we will either be working on learning to notate music using the software "Finale" and using "Jamstudio" to learn about chords in a song in the computer lab- or doing some lessons on the history of Rock and Roll.