

Team 8 News

FEBRUARY 2010

Fieldtrip News:

DC TRIP NEWS

The DC trip is definitely on. Just as a reminder, it's scheduled for May 18th, 19th and 20th. Through fundraising we were able to knock \$50.00 off the cost of the trip for every student. The last payment of \$85.00 is due March 1st. Please be prompt with this payment as we will need to pay the travel company soon after all the checks are deposited and cleared. We are taking three buses. At this point we have several open seats for any parent who can pay their way (\$385) and who would like to chaperone. Please call Ms. Hetterich at Ext. 2126 if you are interested. All chaperones who have already submitted their \$100.00 will need to send in the rest of the money by March 1st as well.

Language Arts

In Language Arts, students have been reading short stories in class and doing various activities connected with them. Last week they should have turned in an essay entitled "Turning Point" in which they describe an experience they've had when they realized something important. This week they will turn in a Persuasive essay on a topic of their own choice. Students are also getting some experience

taking multiple choice tests based on some of the stories in preparation for their NYS ELA test in April. All of their graded writing assignments should be saved for their Writing Portfolio at the end of the year. I've got writing folders set up in the back of the room but many of these are empty! I've told students they need to file their assignments somewhere- either in school or at home.

Behavior Expectations

At this time of year we are asking parents to remind their sons and daughters about behavior expectations in school and on field trips. We have many exciting activities planned for the remainder of the school year and we want all to be able to participate!

Next we will be reading a novel in class together, The Outsiders, by S.E. Hinton. Many of you may have read this book in school- it still continues to be a book that prompts many great discussions.

Social Studies

The second semester in social studies will focus on 20th century American history. We will begin with a study of America's role in World War I. Students will simulate their own end to the war with groups representing the European powers and a group representing President Woodrow Wilson. Will our students negoti-

ate an everlasting peace or will they make the same mistakes made at Versailles? We shall see!

After winter break we will begin one of the most entertaining units of the year—the Roaring 20s. We will be looking at all aspects

of life during that decade and try to figure out what exactly put the “roar” into it. Also, welcome back Mr. Dan Barach. Mr. Barach will be student teaching with us for the next month in Mr. Connelly's classes. Good luck!

Math

In math the students have just started solving systems of equations and by next week we will be learning about quadratics. After break, we will breakaway from graphing and start working with proportions and ratios to solve conversions. This will bring us to the beginning of March, where we will start

working with percents, tax and interest. March will end with the fourth summative assessment. Just as a little reminder, your child should be bringing home a grade sheet weekly. This needs to be signed and returned by Friday. The grade sheet allows you and your child to know their grade throughout the quarter and

if they are missing any assignments

Science

As the second semester begins all thoughts are towards the upcoming Science Fair. All students are encouraged to enter the science fair for the benefit of their own education and the full letter grade "bump" in their third quarter grade. I want students to know that I am willing to help them along with any difficulty they may encounter in any and all aspects of their project.

In science class we are finishing up rocks with a

two page writing project on rocks that will serve as an exam for the unit. Following this we will jump right into plate tectonics and study the forces that create volcanoes and earthquakes such as the one that recently devastated Haiti. We will study patterns and the role of governments and non-government agencies and how they may act to minimize earthquake damage and respond more effectively to those that do occur.

Following Plate Tectonics, Ms. Binnie, our student teacher, will take over and begin the energy unit. This will encompass all aspects of energy and look at the quest for a grand unification theory that will combine gravity and quantum mechanics. Some lively in class discussions will result we are sure.

