

Week of 5/13

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy Friday! This may be the last newsletter for the year! We have enjoyed teaching your students each and every day! We hope everyone has a healthy and safe summer! We look forward to seeing all of our students next year!

**History-** In history, we continue to learn about Japan. We looked at the ancient art of Sumo and are studying the traits of an honorable warrior. In the coming days, we will compare Japanese Samurais to European Knights. We will look at the valor and honor.

**Math-** At the beginning of the week, students learned how to define and apply populations, samples, random samples, representative samples, & inferences-valid or invalid. Then, we moved into probability. Students learned about theoretical probability and then did different types of experiments to find the probability. Today, students became doctors to diagnose their patients based on the probability of the number of red blood cells. We will complete this activity on Monday. Students will take their Math iReady benchmark test for their final; **be sure students come with a charged computer for finals!** On Monday, students will be taking all of their math journals, tests, and essential skills assessments home with them so be on the lookout for them Monday evening.

**Pre-Algebra-** This week, students learned about the different forms of transformations: translation, reflection, rotation and dilation and which ones are congruent and which one is similar. Students showed their knowledge by connecting all forms of transformations to make a butterfly. Their final will be the iReady Math benchmark test; **be sure students come with a charged computer for finals!** On Monday, students will be taking all of their math journals, tests, and essential skills assessments home with them so be on the lookout for them Monday evening.

**Writing-** Students are finishing their final summative writing piece- "The Lottery." This will be due on Monday! Students will take iReady during their final exam time.

**Reading-** The students are so invested in our "Who Killed Edgar Allan Poe?" murder mystery quest. They are continuing to view documents, learn clues, and interrogate each other. Next week they will put everything together, make their final accusations, and learn who committed the crime.

**Science-** This week in Science, we are finishing up our last unit (Environmental Science) and taking the NWEA benchmark. Students have shown tremendous growth in

science over their 7th grade year and they should be proud! Next week, we will be participating in our Bush Honeysuckle removal. You should have received two emails with information about the honeysuckle removal. Please be on the lookout for an email early next week as the last reminder for what students need to do to prepare. We will have our safety training days on Monday and Tuesday. Looking forward to a great last week of school!

**Middle School Band** [Website](#)

Please feel free to contact us, through email, any time you have questions or concerns.

(Do not respond to this email)

Thank you for allowing us to teach your students every day!

Mrs. McDonnell

Mrs. Newton

Mrs. Wecker

Mrs. Weiland

Week of 5/6

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy Friday! We completed MAP testing on Monday of this week and students worked hard! Next week, each Hawk Time class will be competing against each other in Olympic events created in their PE classes. Olympic events take place on Tuesday next week, so be sure your student is dressed appropriately for outside activities (tennis shoes, athletic attire, etc) and bring their positive attitudes!

**History-** In history, we are learning about feudal Japan. We looked at their form of poetry, Haiku, and created our own. We also studied their ancient social hierarchy, specifically the warrior class and how they used their influence to rule.

**Math-** This week, students are learning about populations, samples, random samples, representative samples, & inferences-valid or invalid. We will have a short quiz next week. Our last and final unit will be over probability where students will be finding theoretical probabilities and conducting experimental probabilities.

**Pre-Algebra-** This week, students are learning about the different forms of transformations: translation, reflection, rotation and dilation and which ones are congruent and which one is similar. Students will test their knowledge through a project next week. Our last and final unit will be an introduction on systems of equations beginning with graphing. Their final will be the iReady Math portion of our spring benchmark.

**Writing-** This week we read the classic Shirley Jackson short story, "The Lottery." Students were shocked by the ending! They are now examining how Jackson created different moods and suspense. Students will take iReady during their final exam time.

**Reading-** We finished discussing Poe's "The Cask of Amontillado," "The Raven," and "Annabel Lee." Today we started our murder mystery party called "Who Killed Edgar Allan Poe?" Each student was assigned a different Poe character to pretend to be. For the next few weeks, they will interrogate each other, examine documents, and collect evidence to solve the mystery!

**Note:** Students need to return any books that they checked out from my personal library before summer break!

**Science-** This week in science, we finished learning about invasive species and we are getting ready to prep for our bush honeysuckle removal during finals week. Please be on the lookout for information about the honeysuckle hack over the next two weeks.

There has been one informational email sent to you as well as a hard copy sent home with students. Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns. Everyone seems pretty excited for our science final of the honeysuckle removal. NWEA benchmark testing will take place in science class May 16th and 17th. This benchmark is to monitor growth in science throughout the school year. Let's finish the year strong, Hawks!

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Week of 4/22

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Good afternoon! With MAP testing beginning this Monday, April 29, we are reviewing concepts and how to be prepared for testing! The MAP tests address learning that has taken place throughout the year, so the most helpful things you can do as a parent are making sure your child is well-rested, well-nourished, and is present during testing times. Also, **PLEASE ensure your student's computer is charged daily** and they have their chargers with them each day. Students will also need headphones that plug into their computers (NO bluetooth headphones are allowed). Also, please remind your student that cell phones, apple watches, or bluetooth headphones are NOT permitted while testing. Last day of MAP testing is Monday, May 6.

**History-** This week, we learned about Mansa Musa and the ancient African kingdoms. We studied about the salt and gold trade and how those items are still mined the same way today as they were in ancient times. Next week will conduct a simulation of the salt and gold trade where we each take a role as a person in Africa during ancient times.

**Math-** This week, students demonstrated their knowledge of finding surface area and volume with a test and they did a fantastic job on it! Then we began reviewing for MAP with various activities. Please be sure students have a charged computer each day next week.

**Pre-Algebra-** This week, students demonstrated their knowledge of using Pythagorean Theorem to solve problems with a test. Then we began reviewing for MAP with various activities. Please be sure students have a charged computer each day next week.

**Writing-** This week we finished writing a summative writing piece analyzing Chief Joseph's "I Will Fight No More Forever" and Abraham Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address." We also prepared for the MAP test with some sample questions from the state. **It is important that students charge their computers fully each night next week in order to be successful!**

**Reading-** This week we continued our unit on Edgar Allan Poe by reading "The Cask of Amontillado." Students noticed similarities in the style of writing between this story and Poe's "Tell Tale Heart." Students will continue to examine and analyze the story next week.

**Science-** In Science, we are working through how matter and energy flow through an ecosystem. This week we explored how carbon and nitrogen cycle through biotic and

abiotic factors and wrapped up the week learning about symbiosis. Ask your student about the three types of symbiotic relationships and organisms that interact within them. Next week, we will be talking more about energy in ecosystems. Please remind your student to check Infinite Campus and keep up with their assignments.

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Week of 4/15

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy Friday! Today we had a pep assembly for spring sports. Please note that MAP testing begins on April 29 and ends on May 5. Students need to have a charged computer, headphones, and a good night of sleep as well as a healthy breakfast.

**History-** We began this week with a virtual tour of the Taj Mahal before we switched our focus to ancient Africa and its Kingdoms.

**Math-** This week we learned about volume of pyramids and cylinders. Today we reviewed surface area and volume of prisms, pyramids, and cylinders. The test is Tuesday next week so all missing work is due then. Please be sure that your student is studying!

**Pre-Algebra-** We took a test over surface area and volume of prisms, pyramids, cylinders, cones, and spheres. We moved onto using the pythagorean theorem to find missing side lengths of right triangles.

**Writing-** This week we pivoted from analyzing poetry to analyzing famous speeches. We started the week looking at the "I Will Fight No More Forever" speech by Nez Perce Chief Joseph. We then examined "The Gettysburg Address" by Abraham Lincoln. Now, students are planning out a literary analysis essay where they answer the question of: Which speaker was more effective in delivering their message: Chief Joseph or Lincoln?

**Reading-** This week we continued to analyze Edgar Allan Poe's "The Tell Tale Heart" through the Amplify program. Students created their own visual storyboards for different parts of the text from both the narrator's and reader's perspectives. We then discussed how the two are different and whether or not the narrator is "reliable." Next week we will continue to read the works of Poe with "The Cask of Amontillado."

**Science-** This week in Science, we are exploring biogeochemical cycles to understand how matter moves through biotic and abiotic factors of an ecosystem. Next week we will be building off of this topic, discussing how energy moves through ecosystems.

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Week of 4/1

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy Friday! This Monday we have planned a district wide event to participate in the solar eclipse. We will have shorter classes with students spending the afternoon portion in small groups consisting of elementary and high school students. Please be sure to remind your student to wear their glasses appropriately and follow the instructions of their teachers. Glasses will be provided for students on Monday.

Upcoming Dates:

April 8: Solar Eclipse + District Activities

April 12: Explore U (Middle School Career Fair)

**History-** This week we learned about ancient Roman laws by looking at scenarios and applying them to the 12 TABLES to see how they would be adjudicated. Then we shifted gears into learning about how Mt. Vesuvius buried Pompeii in the 1st century AD. We are studying what we can learn from the artifacts from the entombed city.

**Math-** This week we found the surface area of prisms, pyramids, cylinders and composite figures. Next week we will work on finding the volume of 3D shapes.

**Pre-Algebra-** This week we found the surface area of cylinders, cones, spheres, and composite figures. We also reviewed finding the area of rectangular prisms and then learned how to find the volume of triangular prisms and cylinders. Next week we will find the volume of pyramids, cones, and spheres.

**Writing-** We are continuing our literary analysis unit with a different spoken word text called "For Every One" by Jason Reynolds. This time students are tasked with creating a "one-pager" analysis of what words, quotes, and images help create the text's theme. We are also beginning to do a little review of what MAP test questions might look like so that we feel comfortable with them in a few weeks.

**Reading-** In reading class, we finally gave our persuasive presentations. The students really impressed me with their organization of thought, specific examples from the texts they chose, and their ability to present in front of their peers. Next week we will begin looking at the works of Edgar Allan Poe through a new resource called Amplify.

**Science-** In Science, we have been studying photosynthesis and cellular respiration in plants. We will continue talking about photosynthesis next week. On Monday, April 8th,

we will learn about the solar eclipse that will be taking place later that afternoon! Can't wait!

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Week of 3/25

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Good afternoon! Hopefully families feel rested after last weeks' Spring Break! Did your student share with you which teachers had pie thrown in their faces on Friday, March 14, the day before Spring Break? Students had a blast celebrating the AAA club!

Upcoming Dates:

Reminder, no school tomorrow, Friday, March 29!

April 8: Solar Eclipse + District Activities

April 12: Explore U (Middle School Career Fair)

**History-** This week we learned about ancient Roman laws by looking at scenarios and applying them to the 12 TABLES to see how they would be adjudicated. Then we shifted gears into learning about how Mt. Vesuvius buried Pompeii in the 1st century AD. We are studying what we can learn from the artifacts from the entombed city.

**Math-** This week we began our 3D unit! We reviewed how to name 3D shapes as well as several geometry vocabulary words. We also discovered what a cross section is by using playdough to construct 3D shapes and then using a fishing line to slice them parallel or perpendicular to the base. We are also reviewing the surface area of prisms and pyramids. Next week, we will find the surface area of cylinders and composite figures. Don't forget, students have homework in math every night!

**Pre-Algebra-** This week we reviewed geometry vocabulary words, used playdough to discover cross sections, found the surface area of prisms and pyramids. Next week we will find surface area of cylinders, cones, spheres, and composite figures. Reminder: students have homework in math every night!

**Writing-** This week we focused on analyzing a spoken word poem titled "B" by Sarah Kay. Students did a variety of analytical activities and discussions to break down the text. We are now writing a short literary analysis of the text.

**Reading-** Students have been hard at work to organize and create slides for our oral presentations. Students have been tasked with persuading their classmates to read/watch a specific text because they think it has either historical, cultural, or societal significance. Our presentations will begin next Wednesday, April 3. Be sure to check in with your student and make sure they will be ready to go on Wednesday!

**Science-** This week in Science, we finished our synthetic material website project. Websites are due Thursday 3/28 before the end of the day. Ask your student to see what information they gathered and created on their website! Monday, we will begin our last unit which covers ecology. We will cover content such as photosynthesis, symbiosis, ecosystems and invasive species.

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