



Saint Michael Parish School Middle School Matters

October 22, 2009

Important Matters

Conferences are next week - **7th and 8th grade conferences** are in the gym on a “drop by” basis. We find that this model provides us the time we need to address each student's progress with a greater number of teachers than if we held to a schedule. We will be available on Thursday from 8-2:45 and on Friday from 8-11:30. We are always happy to meet with you another time if you can't attend these times.

Mrs. Rafferty

Religion

This week we prepared skits featuring an expert “theologian” in each group. The task was to answer parents or students concerns or questions regarding the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. We also had a presentation by the principal and a teacher (Mrs. Allin) on the merits of Pope John Paul II High School. They are going to be SO technology rich - be sure to attend the parent information night on November 17th at St. Martins if you might be considering the school. Father Patrick is due to visit today and we'll see our buddies tomorrow. All three of the first Little Kids Bible stories are due FRIDAY with the art work.

8th Language Arts

We're finished with the verbs unit and will take the pretest tomorrow. Any passing grade can be accepted as the final, and it gives kids a good window into how they'll do on the official final next Monday. We have a really short week coming up, and we'll look at characterization in the story “Lemon Brown.”

U.S. History

Chapter 5 has us in the thick of pre-revolutionary goings on in America. It's a really inflammatory time and America is experiencing major adolescent attitude - some valid and some not. The kids are really getting the “enduring understandings” of the time. We'll take the test on the chapter tomorrow.

7th Language Arts.

We are testing on the verbs unit tomorrow as well as Chapter 4 in Vocabulary. Next week we'll return to the lit book with the story “Homesick.” We'll write a prompt on subjective observations and imitate the setting in creative writing.

Mrs. Getchman

In religion as we talk about prophets, we are looking at saints and how they have listened to and followed the message of the prophets. I have asked the students to think of a saint they'd like to research in preparation for All Saints Day. Look for that rubric tomorrow.

Our lever investigation is complete and students took I-Check 2 assessment. Now we are looking at pulleys and comparing use and advantage to levers. Lab groups have set up single-fixed and single-moveable pulleys and analyzed advantage based on newtons needed to lift the load.

We spent two history lessons learning about the fauve painting style to create our own Mesopotamian fishing boats using the model of Andre Derain (1880-1954). Look for these beautiful creations in the hall during conferences. In chapter five students will analyze what characteristics of a society constitute a civilization.

VFW essay is due Oct. 28. This should be typed (12pt. Font, double spaced) with a title but no heading. The entry form should be attached. Remember to enter the word count on the form. Please print a second copy for me to grade. Tomorrow unit 5 vocab is due, test Monday. No vocab. Next week.

The seventh grade have “experienced” King John and the signing of the Magna Carta, the bubonic plague and the 100 Years' War. All these events contributed to the decline of feudalism in Europe. The test on this chapter is tomorrow. Next, we will look at the Byzantine Empire. Please see attached permission slip for our field trip to St. James Cathedral on November 17th.

See you next week at conferences.

Mrs. Evoy

The 6th graders have been learning a short-cut method for multiplying with factors ending in zeroes. They have been estimating products by rounding to the greatest place value and then using the short-cut method to get the estimate. They also have been multiplying whole numbers and decimals and learning where to put the decimal point. There will be a quiz over this material on Friday. Next week we will be working with exponents and scientific notation.

The 7th graders have been multiplying and dividing decimals and had the Chapter test today which covered all operations with decimals. Next week they will be reviewing composite and prime numbers, learning rules for the divisibility of numbers between 2 and 10, and using prime factorization to find the greatest common factor and least common multiple of numbers. In religion they made very nice collages depicting the theme “Where do we find God?” The Joyful Mysteries should be memorized for Wednesday.

The 8th graders have been solving equations with the variable on both sides of the equal sign. They will have a quiz on sections 3-5 and 3-6 tomorrow. Next week we will review the chapter and have the chapter 3 test on Tuesday.

Mr. Hart

The 8th grade class is now working in Investigation #4 Discover The Moon. We will be generating

questions about the moon, discussing the phases of the moon, reading moon myths from around the world, and writing our own moon myths.

The 7th grade class is finishing Investigation #3 and will begin Investigation #4 this week.

The J.V. Football team has a game today at Mason County Christian School. The football awards assembly is next Monday after practice and the last game of the season is next Tuesday at home against Pioneer.

Boys basketball practice begins Monday, Nov. 2. Monday practices are from 2:30-4:30. Tuesday – Friday from 3:15-5:00.

Mr. Herness

Sixth grade Spanish will be taking their first test this week. The test is closed notes, and includes every subject we have covered in Spanish, thus far. The second half of the week will be used to review the test taken, and to preview the next chapter.

Seventh graders continue to work on the conjugation of regular verbs ending in “ar” and utilizing these verbs in sentences with an emphasis on proper conjugation. They will be taking their first quiz on regular verbs this week. In addition, all seventh graders have been assigned their first reading comprehension assignment of the year.

The eighth grade Spanish class is in it's final week of review of year two Spanish. Students will be given a reading comprehension assignment during the latter half of the week.

This week in middle school computers, the class will be finalizing the movie scripts created with the software Open Office. In addition, the filming of students' movies will begin.

Ms Berning

The watercolor projects are in process this week. Last week we tried our first abstract landscape as inspired by Richard Diebenkorn, but found the technique we were after to be a bit elusive. So, we figured that if Diebenkorn could produce 140 paintings all in the same series, we could at least have a go at a second painting, and I do see improved skill work on this second work. We'll finish matting them on construction paper and put them up in the middle school hallway. I'd like to finish this week with something bright and a bit of an autumn theme to be displayed in the frames in the hallway outside the gym. It'll involve tempera, tissue paper, an unusual watercolor technique, and even a little printing with corrugated cardboard!