# 6th Grade Communications

## Miss Blanshine's Homeroom

December 2013

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Dear Parents / Guardians,

I would like to start the December Newsletter by sending out a big "thank you" to all the parents who attended parent / teacher conferences. The information and thoughts you shared with me are invaluable as I work to help each student reach their goals this year. By working together we can achieve great things! Also, please remember to check out the wiki page for our class. You can find it at http://missblanshine.wiki.cvsd.k12.pa.us Also, some great time fillers for the holiday break might be practicing those math skills on SM http://sme.cvsd.k12.pa.us or reading a great book to add to the 40 book challenge chart! Students can be proactive and keep those thinking skills sharp!



On a side note- it's getting chilly! Please keep in mind that the students will be going outside for recess unless the weather does not permit. Remind your child that they should bring the appropriate outerwear for the colder weather.

#### WHAT HAVE WE BEEN READING?

Now that we are back from Thanksgiving break, we will be reading about the 1800s and Ancient Egypt. As we move on we will continue to work on skills such as sequencing, character, compare and contrast, fact vs. opinion, main idea, and graphic resources.

As it is coming to the season of winter, and it is getting colder, we are more likely to be indoors. Please encourage your child to be delving into books as often as possible, instead of turning on the TV. We are working hard to reach our goal of 40 books read this year! Each student should be choosing from a variety of genres to broaden their scope and background knowledge.

#### HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

Many of you picked up cards to purchase items to help less fortunate families in our area. I would like to thank those of you who have already sent in food items for this PTO food drive. If you have not yet sent in your items, please keep in mind that we are collecting until December 9<sup>th</sup>. Helping a family in need is a wonderful way to begin the holiday season.



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Student Name
have received this information newsletter.
Parent Signature

#### Contacting Teachers

All teachers can be contacted here at school between 8:00 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. Dial the school number, 656-2068 and then the teacher's extension. Or dial 0 to leave a message with Mrs. Parker or see if we are available.

The best method for contacting teachers is e-mail. While we may not be able to answer the phone, many times we can get back to you much more guickly with an e-mail.

Miss Blanshine: Communication Arts, Science / Social Studies ext. 4107 alison\_blanshine@cvsd.k12.pa.us

Mrs. Shetter Writing ext. 4109

dori\_shetter@cvsd.k12.pa.us

Mrs. Schnader: Math

ext. 4111

jill\_schnader@cvsd.k12.pa.us

Mrs. Learning Support doris\_learnan@cvsd.k12.pa.us

### Holiday Gift Idea!

While it might not sound too exciting, a new binder might be just what your child is hoping for! Binders take a beating during the early months of school as students learn to use the system. A new, heavy duty, D-ring binder might be just what they need!

Rings that don't quite fit together or tears in the seams can cause frustration as your child moves through his or her day. The holiday break is a good time to take a look at the binder's condition and replace it if necessary. You might be surprised by how much your child appreciates it!

#### **Curriculum Corner**

**Math:** Before Thanksgiving Break, we started our unit of study on fractions. We will take a benchmark test which includes all of the material from the first four chapters. The topics include adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing decimals, as well as graphs and basic fractions. We will then move on to adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers. Please continue to review multiplication facts with your child.

**Science:** This month in science we are beginning our study of matter. The students are now experts on mass, density, and volume, and will soon be experts of atoms too! They will each complete a candy model of an atom, and then we'll be moving on to learning more specifically about elements and the periodic table. Later, the students will study states of matter and how it changes.

**Writing:** Now that we have a body of written pieces in our portfolios, students are working to publish selected pieces online!

Our district writing scores were very good and the students did an excellent job with their narrative writing samples. We continue to develop our author's craft through modeling after other writers. As we work our way though the coming months, we will expand our efforts into informative writing of different forms.

#### Geography Bee

6<sup>th</sup> grade students will participate in the National Geographic Geography Bee this month. 10 students will be selected during preliminary classroom competitions and those students will progress to a school-wide bee to be held on December 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 a.m. Parents are welcome to attend! School-wide bee participants will be notified soon! For more information about the Bee, check out the website at <a href="http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geographybee/">http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geographybee/</a>.

#### IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Please make note of the following dates:

Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>
Leola Barnes and Noble Book Fair
Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>
Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>
Holiday Concert – 9:30a & 7p
6<sup>th</sup> Grade Geography Bee\* - 9:15

\*Parents and guests of participating students are welcome to attend!

Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> Early Dismissal @ 1:15

Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> Guest Speaker –Duane Abel 10:30a (4-6<sup>th</sup>) Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> Holiday Sing Along – 2:30p

12/23/2013 – 1/1/2014 No school- Holiday Break School resumes Wednesday 1/2/2014.

Looking ahead to January... Leola Spelling Bee-

Thursday, January 16th, 9:15.



Character Trait for December-<u>Caring</u> Sensitivity to Other's Needs