

6th Grade Communications

Miss Blanshine's Homeroom

November 2013



Dear Parents / Guardians,

As October comes to an end, I can't help but think how quickly it has gone by! I am looking forward to meeting with you for parent/teacher conferences the week of November 25th. Your thoughts and feedback are so valuable. If you ever have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me.

Another event that takes place at the end of the first trimester is a binder "clean out". Students will be able to take home anything they think is important to keep, and will get rid of any fillers. Please keep in mind that some things may need to be kept until a unit is finished. The students have improved their binder organization skills and we are working on using the same skills too keep our desks organized!

Field Trip...

On October 25th, the 6th graders headed into Lancaster City to visit the Lancaster Science Factory. The students connected with many different science concepts through hands-on experiments, interactive models, and technology. Please visit the website to find out more at www.lancastersciencefactory.org. Thanks to all of the chaperones who joined us and made the trip a success!

What Have We Been Reading?

The end of the first trimester takes us further into study of non-fiction. We go to some exciting destinations, such as the Amazon Rain Forest, trips back in time to "A Week in the 1800's", "Ancient Egypt", and our own New Mexico to discover "Dinosaur Ghosts: The Mystery of Coelophysis". Finally, one selection of science fiction takes us to a futuristic Moon and Earth in "Goodbye to the Moon". Throughout these selections the students will continue to develop new vocabulary and reading skills such as main idea, graphic resources, and

CLASS MEETING

- Most recently, during class meeting we have gone through the process of electing classroom officials. We elect a President, Vice President, and Secretary. This gives the students an opportunity to have class representation, and also the ability to learn to "run" class meeting and solve classroom problems. The students were given a chance to vote for the person they thought would do the best job in each office.
- Congratulations to our new classroom officers:
 - President: Jaden Douangsouri
 - Vice- President: Hannah Lally
 - Secretary: Mercy Maina
- Just a note: students who ran and were not elected will have another opportunity to run at mid- school year. Also, those who did not run and desire to, will be able to.



Please return this portion of the newsletter to Miss Blanshine

Student Name _____

I 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 to 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 quickly with an e-mail.

Miss Blanshine: Communication Skills and 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. Leaman: Learning Support
doris_leaman@cvsd.k12.pa.us



Curriculum News:

Math: On Tuesday, the students will take their chapter 3 math test on analyzing, interpreting, and creating graphs. Next, we will move into understanding numbers, fractions, and decimals. Next school year, the sixth grade will implement a new math series called Math In Focus. One purpose of this textbook is to develop a conceptual understanding and create more critical thinking. Since the content that we have in our current curriculum lines up with the new series, we are going to dabble in the new textbook. This is very different from what most students are used to. We will be collaborating with each other and discussing our thinking to aid in developing that deeper understanding of the content. If you have any questions, please contact me at jill_schnader@cvsd.k12.pa.us

Social Studies: We will soon be wrapping up Geography. These last weeks of October, our time will be spent connecting our knowledge of physical geography to how we use resources and how that impacts our world. A state connection was made with a study of coal. Students are beginning to make excellent connections between the information we are studying and their observations of their own world. We will finish our study of geography by studying human geography through a closer look at population, migration, economic systems, and government systems, and culture.

Writing: Now that November is here, we have shifted our focus to prompted narrative writing in preparation for the first district writing assessment. We are refreshing our understanding of how to write to a prompt, while incorporating our new skills in word choice and creating imagery. The newer expectations of Common Core have shifted the focus away from personal narratives to researched-based creative writing. We've used one of the Reading Street selections to springboard our practice, and the independent prompt will focus on the experience of a family in the Dust Bowl during the 1930s. The expectations are high and students are really putting forth good effort to try to meet them.

Calendar of Events

November 18- End of first trimester

November 20-Early Dismissal @1:15

**November 25-26- Early dismissal @ 12:15 for
Parent / Teacher Conferences**

November 27- No School- Parent/Teacher Conferences

November 28-29- No School- Happy Thanksgiving!

Great News! As you know, we are now learning the 7 Habits of Happy Kids based on Stephen Covey's book. A parent's guide has gone home and we hope you are hearing some of the positive language. We encourage you to support this program by learning and using this language in your daily routines. The 7 Habits are: Habit 1: Be Proactive, Habit 2: Begin with the End in Mind, Habit 3: Put First things First, Habit 4: Think Win-Win, Habit 5: Seek First to understand then be Understood, Habit 6: Synergize, and Habit 7: Sharpen the Saw. Make sure to ask your children about them!

Character Trait of the Month – Courtesy

Respect for and consideration of people and property.

People who are courteous have good manners. Good manners help keep us from hurting each other's feelings. If someone has an armful of books and we don't hold the door open for him, it might hurt his feelings. If we forget to thank someone for a gift, we may hurt her feelings. That's why it's important to say "please" and "thank you." That's why it's important to take turns and to share.