



Imagine Foundations Public Charter School Newsletter

FEBRUARY 6, 2012

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 2

Dates to Remember

Feb. 7th –
4th Grade MSA
Family Night
5:30 pm

Feb. 9th –
Kindergarten
Literacy Night

Feb. 10th –
Typed Character
Essays Due
Grades 3-7

Feb. 13th –
Early Dismissal
11:30 am

Feb. 14th –
Imagine
Character
Surveys Begin
Grades 3-7

Feb. 17th –
Winter Ball

Feb. 20th –
Holiday
(School Closed)

Feb. 23rd –
Field Trip
Chaperone
Training
5:30 - 6:30 pm

Feb. 24th –
Character
Assembly
1:45 pm-2:45 pm



Principal's Message

The mission of Imagine Foundations Public Charter School is to develop dynamic individuals through hard work, academic achievement and character education. It is our vision to create a school environment that helps students gain academic confidence, strong character, determination, and the academic skills necessary for entrance into a university. With that being said, our primary focus is our instructional program. We have a rigorous and accelerated program and it requires hard work from students, parents, and staff. Our students must make education their primary focus. While we have a variety of extracurricular clubs/activities, students are only permitted to participate if they are in good academic standing. Students who received less than a "C" in any area of the 2nd quarter report card have been suspended from the clubs/activities until 3rd quarter progress reports are released and the grade increases. Parents we appreciate your support with this matter. We offer in-school and after school tutoring to students at no charge. Additionally, for a small fee, the PTO is forming a Saturday Math Tutoring Program.

Regular attendance is also imperative for the success of our students. Please make every effort to send your child to school each day and on time. Please also be mindful of repeatedly picking your child up for early dismissal. Each day students are late, leave for early dismissal or miss a day of school there is a loss of instructional time.

The Maryland School Assessment (MSA) will take place on March 13-14 for reading and March 20-21 for math. This assessment is a requirement for all Maryland Public School students in grades 3-8. It is a way for the state to measure the performance and progress of our students. Please place these dates on your calendar and be mindful of them when scheduling events for your children. If you were not able to attend the MSA Family Night please contact your child's teacher to get tips on how to help prepare your child for this assessment.

Staff Birthdays

Feb. 6th –
Ms. McBurrows

Feb. 11th –
Mrs. Sereda

Feb. 26th –
Mrs. Ortanez

In conclusion, we thank you for supporting your child's education and look forward to another great month!

Sincerely,

*Chenee Dwarte
Principal*

Counselor's Corner



The Maryland School Assessment (MSA) for students in grades 3-7 will be administered next month. The Reading MSA test will take place on March 13th & 14th and the Math MSA will take place on March 20th & 21st. Testing will begin promptly at 8:45 am on each of the testing dates. If your child is not at school by that time each day, they will not be permitted to enter the classroom. Their tardiness and/or absence on those testing dates will result in them not being able to participate in the assessment with the rest of their classmates. Be cognizant not to schedule doctor's appointments and out of town vacations and please make every attempt to get your child to school on time each testing day.

This month the featured Pillar of Character for students in grades K-5 is “**Respect**”. A person of character values all persons, lives by the Golden Rule, respects the dignity, privacy, and freedom of others, is courteous and polite to all, and is tolerant and accepting of differences. Help us to reinforce the value of respecting the environment, others, property and self through discussions and other teachable moments at home.

If you have not received an appointment letter from me yet for the PEP meeting for your student in grades 1, 4 and/or 7, they will be coming soon. I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting with parents and their children so far! Appointments will resume after MSA testing.

If you have additional questions concerning Student Service Learning (SSL) and/or PEP meeting dates and times, feel free to contact me at erica.daves@pgcps.org or 301-808-4003.

Ms. Daves

Special Area News

PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Greetings Parents and Friends!

The school year is moving very fast and we see students growing like weeds. Skill growth is continuing also in the physical education classes.

Kindergarten-Second Grades: Movement with coordination has been the emphasis for the first half of the year. The students will continue to do these skills but body awareness in space will dominate the next month. Balance skills, beginning tumbling, and mat activities will help them to accomplish this. Many of our students have been in gymnastic classes and do well already. They will be my leaders and demonstrators. They will be given independent work as I work with beginners.

Third- Seventh Grades will start fitness assessment for the winter session. Pacer test, core strength, flexibility, and endurance are the measurements that the Fitness Gram requires. Pacer laps, curl ups, push-ups, trunk lifts and sit and reach skills are the skills measured. There is a healthy zone range that the students should try to attain. Parents will get a report on the results. Additionally, indoor activities will be taught such as volleyball, speed stack relays, and dance.

Grades three through seven are **required** to wear athletic shoes for the safety of your child and the preservation of the gym floor. Don't go out and buy expensive "cool" shoes. Just a nice comfortable pair of sneakers will do. I have been having a problem with students forgetting shoes. The schedule is written on the gym bulletin board and each teacher has a copy. The PTO website features the Specials Schedule also.

My grading scale is based on a 3, 2, 1, 0 scale. 3= meets or exceeds expectations, 2= meets most of the requirement of the objective, 1= does not meet expectations in most areas, 0= did not meet any of the requirements.

Nutrition: Please provide your child with nutritional breakfasts and send nutritional food for lunch. Many of the students are tired by mid-day and hyped up after lunch due to nutritional needs. If you have concerns, please call or talk to me during car pool line.

Lost and Found!!!!!! Parents! A name on a garment or property goes a long way in reuniting the item with the student. Please label all items. All unlabeled items found in the gymnasium and elsewhere are sent to Leland Hall.

REMINDER

All students must have an emergency card on file at the school. If you have not completed a white card yet, please do so as soon as possible.



Contact Mr. Rainey at john.rainey@pgcps.org or 301-808-4003.

Mr. Rainey



TRAFFIC

Dear Parents,

The goal is to complete the afternoon dismissal by 3:30 pm each day. If we are done before you get to school, you need to park near Leland Hall and pick up students before aftercare starts. Please be very observant in the morning. Our younger students are sometimes impulsive and inattentive in getting to the building. **Remember that the speed limit is 10 mph.** Some of our parents are in a hurry and exceed that daily. Our children's safety is our priority everywhere! Help us keep this part of the day safe. Keep up the good work. We see a lot of good cooperation out there!

Imagine Traffic Staff

ART DEPARTMENT NEWS



Hello Imagine families!

For the month of February, we will be preparing for the upcoming Maryland State Assessments (MSA), but that doesn't mean we won't be enjoying art lessons. I will be conducting short demonstrations, which all students can follow along with in their art journals. These art journals will stay in the students' homeroom classrooms as I will be assisting with MSA preparation.

Students are also observing and reflecting on master artworks. Please make sure students' art supplies are replenished as I may not be able to provide the classroom materials on a daily basis. We will mostly need drawing (i.e. pencils, crayons, markers) and collage (scissors, glue) materials.

Thank you for your continued support!

Ms. Ortañez

"Developing dynamic individuals through hard work, academic achievement, and character education".

Español

SPANISH DEPARTMENT

Hola padres y estudiantes!

Muchas gracias for all the Spanish dictionaries you submitted for 2nd quarter! I was glad to see the effort put into them and for a considerable number of students, they did make a positive difference toward their 2nd quarter grade.

For the month of febrero, the estudiantes will focus more on numbers, time, colors and shapes.

Padres, I have advised the students that Senora Garay is not accepting any make-up work for the 3rd quarter, but that every student is responsible for completing work while in class. Remember, if your child has tutoring, they should stop by the Spanish classroom (across the hall from tutoring) after class and pick up the notes and make-up work for the session they missed.

Gracias todos! Thank you all!

Señora Garvis - Garay



MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Greetings Parents!

Unfortunately for the month of February, students will only receive 15 minutes of their specials due to the MSA Ramp-Up. In Music, they will learn about the different Classical and Baroque composers. We will also take a look at more music theory and notation, and rhythms.

Just a reminder for 3rd and 4th grade parents: PLEASE have your child's Yamaha Soprano recorder to me ASAP if you have not done so already.

Choir will be February 10th, 16th and 24th from 3:45 - 5:00 pm. I will send out any notices if there are changes to the February schedule.

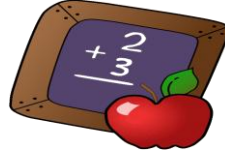
I am currently in the planning stages of starting a keyboard club for students who are interested in playing the keyboard further. There will be two groups: 2nd - 4th grade (JUNIOR GROUP) and 5th - 7th grade (SENIOR GROUP). If you or your child are interested in joining, please email me at musicatimagine@gmail.com.

Feel free to contact me at musicatimagine@gmail.com or quanice.floyd@gmail.com.

Ms. Floyd

Kindergarten News

Math



As we begin the 3rd Quarter, the Kindergarteners will focus on Numbers and Operations, Measurements and Geometry in Math. The students will understand these concepts by:

- adding two digits numbers without regrouping
- sorting collections of objects
- making and identifying congruent shapes
- counting sets of 10's and 1's
- trading pennies for dimes
- telling time to the half hour
- measuring length using nonstandard and standard units

To extend these concepts, you and your child may draw two congruent shapes and make a picture using your shapes, list a collection you have or would like to have, write about your favorite half-hour television show and what would you do if you were one inch tall.

Science

Fabric will be our next module for Science this 3rd Quarter. Our students are expected to investigate fabric around them by exploring and playing a feely box, hunt for the same fabric, make a fabric collage, take fabric apart and learn to weave and sew using different fabrics.

To connect these lessons at home you may talk and share where and when you use fabric, list items at home that are made of fabric, and mend clothes that need sewing or buttons.

We will celebrate the love month by having an ice cream party, President's Day by viewing a film and a Mardi Gras on the last Friday of February by making crafts like masks and having a parade.

Mrs. Lo

Language Arts

Greetings Kindergarten Parents!

January flew by, and we are excited for a productive February. This month in phonics we will finish up our initial review of letters (and celebrating that achievement!), as well as focusing a lot more on blends.

In Reading, we are getting into our unit about weather. We will read texts -- nonfiction, fiction and poetry -- about weather and discuss our experiences in many different types of weather. Your students have already had the opportunity to use our Core Knowledge saying "It's raining cats and dogs!" a few times this winter!

We kicked off our study of our nation's important symbols and landmarks by briefly visiting the Capitol during our Botanical Gardens tour -- expect to see more about this topic over the next month. Also, please remember that Reading Eggs (readingeggs.com) is safe, educational, and a fun place for your child to be on the computer.

Finally, remember that I will host a parent education night on Thursday, February 9th to go over strategies for reading comprehension. This opportunity will provide you with information about how to boost your student's reading comprehension during your 20 minutes of reading a night. Please join us at 5:30 pm in the Middle School Building Amphitheater.

Ms. McPhaul

First Grade News

As we move along into February, the second half of the school year begins!

In math we will begin learning about:

- Naming containers that hold liquid (gallon, half gallon, quart, and liter)
- Ordering three-digit numbers
- Writing a fraction for part of a set
- Using comparison symbols (<, >, =)
- Subtracting two-digit numbers
- Drawing a pictograph with a scale of 2
- Writing numbers in expanded form
- Writing money amounts using dollar and cent symbols
- Finding one half of sets of even and odd numbered objects

In science class we are beginning our next unit on Earth and Space. We will learn about:



- Astronomy –Recognize that there is a relationship between the sun and the earth.
 - Identify ways that the sun affects the earth including that the sun warms the earth and provides light.
- Interactions of Hydrosphere and Atmosphere
 - Describe observable changes in water on the surface of the Earth.
 - Cite examples of the sun's effect on what happens to water on the Earth's surface.
 - Water disappears from puddles, wet surfaces after rain, any open container, etc.

Please make sure your child completes and turns in their homework every day, it is essential to their learning. Practicing daily with addition and subtraction flash cards would give your student a head start to mastering their basic facts. Math-drills.com is a great website where a lot of additional practice can be found. Additional information on Saxon Math may be found at SaxonMath.com/Math2Activities.

Also, we are in need of pencils any donations will be greatly appreciated!

Thank you for all of your support!

Mrs. Fanning



Greetings First Grade Families!

Here is what we will do during the month of February in Phonics, Reading, and History & Geography ... and how you as parents can help!

Phonics:

- **Spelling Tests and Oral Phonics Tests will continue to be given on the fifth lesson of each week.**
- Spelling lists will be sent home **weekly**. Please use them to help your child review for the spelling tests! All lists sent home you may **KEEP AT HOME**.
- We will review and introduce the following: The rule vcv with a, e, i, o and u; digraphs ea, oi, oy, au, aw; spelling with the dropping rule, suffix -es, diphthongs ou, ow; The rule vcccv.

For Home: Please read the paragraph at the bottom of your child's phonics homework to understand what he/she learned that day.

Reading:

Comprehension Skills:

- Make inferences
- Draw conclusions
- Compare and contrast
- Summarize
- Analyze Plot

Grammar:

- has and have
- go and do
- see and saw
- contractions with not

Writing:

- Persuasive Writing

For Home: READ 20 MINUTES EACH NIGHT!

History & Geography: Ancient Egyptians, Black History Month

For Home: Keep an eye out for ADDITIONAL Projects and Activities! They will be sent home in your child's homework folder.

Mrs. Sereda

2nd GRADE READING & HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY NEWS!!



Greetings Families!

The month of February is here and we will start a new Unit in Treasures called Land, Sea, and Sky. Students will embark on a journey through fictional and nonfictional texts about Animal needs and survival, helping planet Earth, wild weather, and habitats and homes.

In Social Studies we will study African American History from the Civil Rights Movement to famous inventors and scientists.

Snapshot of Learning for the Month of February

Saxon Phonics

digraph au and aw, vc/v pattern part 1 and part 2

Treasures Comprehension Strategies/Skills

Generate Questions/Compare and Contrast

Generate Questions/Cause and Effect

Grammar

Linking Verbs

Helping Verbs

Writing

Summary

News Story

World History and Geography

Black History



Reminders to parents:

This may be a good time to replenish on any school supplies students may be lacking such as pencils, notebooks, dictionaries and thesauruses.

If you have any questions, contact me via email at trendlyon.veal@pgps.org.

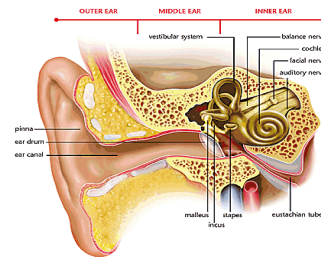
Ms. Veal

Math and Science:

Dear Parents,

In Science, we are continuing our "Physics of Sound Unit". We have done several fun investigations involving guessing the source of a sound and playing instruments to test pitch. As the unit continues, we will learn more about the body parts that produce and receive sound, changing pitch, vibration, and frequency, and we will investigate echoes.

Please note, disregard "Home/School Connection, Investigation 3-How Sound Travels." Due to the assignment needing a pool or oversized bath tub to complete it, I will not expect it to be done. I am looking forward to seeing the creativity of your unit projects, which are due Monday, February 13th!



In math this month, we will learn:

- How to find area of a rectangle or square.
- How to find distances we use, feet, yards, and meters.
- How to find a square root of a number.
- That an array is an orderly arrangement of objects in the shape of a rectangle.
- How to use multiplication to check a division problem.

You can help your child's learning of these subjects by continuing to practice multiplication and subtraction facts with flash cards. Especially concentrate on memorizing the perfect squares through 10 (1x1, 2x2, 3x3, etc.) Allow your child to use a tape measure or yard stick to measure the length of a room and figure out its square footage. Practice writing division problems using the division box, and then check it using multiplication.



We will have a small Valentine's Day party on the 14th. If your child plans on bringing Valentines, please bring enough for all 26 children. As always, thank you for your continued support of your child's education!

Mrs. Williams

Third Grade News

Welcome to February!

Our class is beginning a new science unit using the **Foss Human Body Module**. In this unit your child will investigate the basic structural systems of his or her body, which include the skeleton, joints, and muscles, and the ways these systems work together to provide movement and coordination. This is an exciting unit for students. Over the next 6-8 weeks they will engage in thoughtful investigations exploring bones, building skeletons, making models, and testing their responses to sensory stimuli.

Your child's interest in the structure of the human body can be increased by asking about the investigations at school and by providing additional experiences at home. Investigate a turkey or chicken bone, or dissect a chicken wing to expose the muscles, bones, tendons, and ligaments. Has a family member had an X-ray taken recently? Ask for the X ray; your child will enjoy examining it and sharing it with our class. Physical activity is a great way to increase awareness of the human body. Encourage a game of Bone Tag or Twister. Last, but not least, visit the library to check out some great books.



We are looking forward to many weeks of exciting investigations of the human body. If you have any questions or comments, or have expertise you would like to share with the class, please drop me a note.

The following concepts are what we will concentrate on in Mathematics for the month of February:

- ❖ Multiply using the multiplication algorithm
- ❖ Master division facts
- ❖ Divide 2, 3, and 4 digit numbers by a single digit number
- ❖ Check division with multiplication
- ❖ Solve problems involving division
- ❖ Divide using the division algorithm
- ❖ Write story problems for division number sentences
- ❖ Compare, order, and identify equivalent fractions
- ❖ Picture decimal fractions
- ❖ Add and subtract fractions
- ❖ Identify, describe, and classify polygons
- ❖ Identify and show transformations: translations, rotations, and reflections
- ❖ Estimate temperature
- ❖ Read Fahrenheit or Celsius thermometer
- ❖ Identify common temperatures
- ❖ Identify units of mass
- ❖ Estimate mass
- ❖ Weighs objects using customary or metric units
- ❖ Compare and order objects by size
- ❖ Measure area using nonstandard units
- ❖ Estimate area
- ❖ Find the mean and median of a set of data

**WE HAVE BEEN PREPARING FOR THE MSA ALL YEAR LONG!
WE WILL BEGIN OUR MSA RAMP UP ON February 6-MARCH
22. WE WILL BE WORKING RIGOROUSLY ON MASTERING
ALL THE SKILLS NEEDED FOR EVERY STUDENT TO SCORE A
100% ON THE MSA.**

**PLEASE TALK TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF
THE ASSESSMENT AND ASSIST THEM WITH ANY EXTRA
MSA ASSIGNMENTS THAT THEY WILL RECEIVE. WE
CANNOT WAIT TO CELEBRATE THE SUCCESSFUL
COMPLETION OF MSA WITH THE STUDENTS IN MARCH!**

* **We are in need of tissues and Clorox Wipes in the classroom.
Any donations would be greatly appreciated.***

Remember to please check over each homework question with your child and practice multiplication and division facts. I will continue to send out study guides for all of the written assessments. Please be on the lookout for those. I will also continue to update my Schoolnotes.com with weekly homework assignments, important updates, and study guides.

Mrs. Doughty

Reading/Language Art



Greetings Families,

Happy February! If any parent has free time during the day and would like to volunteer to help during small groups and grading papers 😊 please let me know!

What We Are Learning:

For MSA purposes, we will be going out of order in Treasures to cover concepts not learned yet. For the month of February, the major concepts we will cover are:

- Comparing and contrasting
- Drawing conclusions
- Author's purpose
- Making and confirming predictions
- Diagrams
- Cause and effect
- Fact and opinion
- Descriptions
- Summarizing
- Main Idea



This month in **History and Geography**, we will continue to learn about Ancient Rome. Some important concepts we will cover are:

- Geography of the Mediterranean region
- The Roman Republic
- Cleopatra, Queen of Egypt
- Julius Caesar Dies
- Augustus Caesar
- Roman Lands
- Roads, Bridges, and Aqueducts
- The Buildings of Rome
- Gladiators and Chariot Races
- Pompeii
- The Romans and the Christians
- The Decline of the Roman Empire
- East and West



Novel: *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson

- **Literature Circles:** held every 5th lesson of each weekly theme. Each child has a literature circle job sheet that will need to be completed by this time. The jobs include: Connector, Illustrator, Word Finder, Correspondent, and Discussion Director. It is imperative that each child do their part and complete their job sheet to support their literature circle group.



What You Can Do At Home:



- **PLEASE PRACTICE WRITING BCRs!!!** Use the acronym **R.A.C.E** (restate the question, answer the question, cite evidence from the story, and explain answer) to answer a questions about stories they read.
- Check **SchoolMax** and **SchoolNotes** frequently to see your child's grades, homework for the week, and important updates!
- Make sure your child is **coming to school on time** every day! When they come in late, they miss completing important morning procedures, like their warm-up and writing down homework.
- Their Treasure packets are sent home a day or two before the Treasures test. **Please go over the answers with your child**, make sure the packet is complete, they understand what they are doing, and that they turn it back in the next day. If you have any problems, do not hesitate to email me. **SAVE YOUR TREASURE PACKETS FOR THE UNIT ASSESSMENTS!!**
- Have your child go on the Treasures website to find games and activities that go along with the weekly themes and concepts being learned. Another great site is starfall.com. It helps students practice vowel and consonant sounds.
- The **#1** most important thing to do at home **is read to your child and/or have him/her read to you every night for 20-30 minutes**. This is the perfect opportunity for your child to read and keep up with their novels or indulge in a favorite book!
- **The love of reading is key to academic success.**
- Comprehension workbooks can be purchased to give your child practice answering questions.
- Any extra work done at home can be turned in for extra credit. Just put "extra credit" at the top before turning it in.

Classroom Donations:

- Filler paper! We go through almost a 100 sheets a day!



Thank you again for all your hard work and dedication at home.

Mrs. Grode

4th GRADE NEWS MATH AND SCIENCE

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Time is definitely progressing rapidly! We are already in the second month of 2012, and in the third quarter of the school year! We have however accomplished a lot, so it was time well spent. As we move forward, let us continue to encourage our children to consistently work hard as that is vital to their accomplishments in school and life.

Math Focus:

This month, we will continue to make a conscientious effort to show all work where necessary. Many students are doing an awesome job of this. Thank you for helping here!

We will continue to work on data analysis, measurement (more on the metric units), and fractions. We will expand on data display, geometry (especially solids), and fractions. We will also explore symmetry, transformation, equivalent measures, statistics, and probability. Intense work was done in the area of decimal numbers, as well as integration of that with the metric system. We will continue to practice this and include BCRs on the concepts.

Science Focus:

We have conducted investigations on Energy and will continue to explore aspects of this subtopic. Light, Matter, and Changing Matter are concepts that will be explored through investigations, video presentations, and small group discussions. Prior to all tests, study guides will be sent home as homework. Continue to work with your child to do further exploration via the internet (with your guidance) to complete interactive activities, mini projects, and home investigations that he/she will enjoy.

Note:

Please help your child to use their study guides wisely. The lesson (Math) for each item on the study guide is indicated in parentheses. Thoroughly explore each topic/lesson with your child in order to achieve maximum benefits.

Mrs. Holding-Smith



Language Arts:

Happy February Parent(s)/Guardians!

What a *lovely* time of year! Hard to believe it's February already?

Instruction:

The month of February will be catered to RAMPING UP FOR THE MSA!!!!

Instructional flow will vary slightly as we will spend about 5 days at a time focusing on strategies and skills that students need a refresher on before the MSA! As a result, the Weekly Assessment will not be administered.

For Reading comprehension, we will focus primarily on making and drawing inferences, story structure, monitor comprehension, author's perspective, evaluate, making judgments and writing BCRs, as well as test taking strategies.

Vocabulary and Grammar will vary as we focus on the various strategies and skills.

In World History and Geography we will begin a new Monthly Project, once we resume our focus on "Castles".

Thank you to all who have donated toward our Treat Basket! The basket is full of great goodies! A special THANKS to Mrs. Wright for making these purchases. The students love them!

Tip of the Month: **Provide a quiet study corner** in your home complete with paper, markers, a ruler, pencils and a dictionary.



MSA PLUG!



Parents, please join us in discussing regularly with your child the NEED for them to take the upcoming MSA seriously and how they should personally take pride in how they perform. You should have received documentation earlier this year letting you know if they performed Basic, Proficient or Advanced in certain sections. Proficient is the place to be, and Advanced is icing on the cake! If your child scored Basic, they really should be striving for Proficient and even likewise for Proficient to Advanced! If they scored Advanced, let's stay right there ☺ !!!

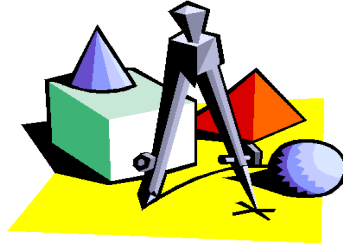
Thank you for being your child's first teacher!

Mrs. Pike

Fifth Grade News

Greetings Teammates!

I can't believe it is already February! As you all know, the Maryland State Assessment (MSA) is coming up in March! I have high expectation for all my students and I am confident that they will be well prepared. We are currently "Ramping Up" for the MSA and I could use your help! Please check nightly to see if your student has additional homework. I will at times give them Extended Constructed Response (ECR) and Brief Constructed Response (BCR) homework problems. Please go over these with your students to ensure they are being completed correctly. There is a large "jump" between the fourth and fifth grade tests due to the addition of ECR's. Thank you for your continued support as we work hard during this busy time of year. The following is what we will cover over the next month in math and science class.



MATH

- Solid Geometric Shapes
- Mean, Median , and Mode
- Line Plots
- Line Graphs
- Circle Graphs
- Double Bar Graphs
- Probability
- Interpreting Data
- Quadrilaterals
- Similar and Congruent
- Area
- Perimeter
- Volume
- Measurement

SCIENCE

In Science class, we will start our Living Systems module. Please look for a parent letter to come home soon that outlines the unit as well as home/school connections sheets for you to work on with your student. Thank you again for partnering with me on your students journey to academic excellence!

Mr. Sereda

Greetings Fifth Grade Family!

Let the countdown begin. In just over a month, students will take the Maryland State Assessment, better known as the MSA. We will begin to “ramp it up” by reviewing major skills daily, so it is very important that students are not only present every day, but that they are coming to class prepared for learning. We will also continue in our reading program during the month of February by covering the following topics:

Weekly Themes: “School Contests”, “American Legends”, and “Exploring Space”.

Reading Comprehension Skills

- Character and Plot
- Plot and Setting
- Summarize

Grammar

- Sentence Types
- Subjects and Predicates
- Sentence Combining

Social Studies

- Westward Expansion

Core Knowledge Novel

- "Sherlock Holmes"

Students will be assigned activities for each chapter that will be collected and graded on a weekly basis.

Students are expected to keep all assignments in a folder or a notebook. Assignments can be hand written neatly or typed.



Happy Reading!!

Ms. John

Sixth and Seventh Grade News



Dear Sixth Grade Family,

We are continuing to fall in-love with the priceless treasures in our reading curriculum. We are continuing Unit 4- "Achievements" and preparing for the up and coming Maryland State Assessment (MSA). Here is an overview of what we will cover for the month of February in our Treasures Program in preparation of the MSA.

***** MSA Reading dates – March 13th & 14th*****

Unit Themes: Unit 5 – "Taking a Stand"

Unit 6- "Great Designs Last Forever"

Reading Comprehension Skill:

- Fact and Opinion
- Compare and Contrast

MSA Reading Skill Review

- Generalizations
- Summarizing
- Poetry – Mood, Tone, and Literary Devices

Grammar

- Subject and Object Pronouns
- Possessive Pronouns
- Review – 8 parts of Speech

Writing Skills and Application

- Interview
- Poetry
- Expository

Social Studies

- Is Freedom Really Free? A Closer Look at the French Revolution (2005)

Current Core Knowledge Novel

- Witness by Karen Hess
- Fight for Your Life by Goodwin Cheu

Students are reading these books simultaneously and completing questions as they read.

Students are responsible for reading assigned pages or chapters for homework. Students are given activities to complete for each chapter in the book.

Please be mindful that students must complete **all** homework assignments each night to ensure comprehension and success. The MSA is approaching quickly, so students will have MSA reading or test prep homework twice a week and weekends.

Remember, homework is 25% of student's total grade.

*******Students will have homework on the weekend until MSA *******

Please have your child read to you each night. Your interest, praise, and encouragement are sure to lead to your child's success.

Ms. McBurrows



Science:

Greetings Parents and Students, in the month of February sixth graders will learn about "Food and Nutrition" by working with laboratory tools and techniques to test food using indicators to determine acid, vitamins C, fat, and sugar content. They will use knowledge and nutritional information from product labels to plan and evaluate menus. Students will explore the relationship between the foods they eat and personal health.

The seventh grade students will use scientific skills and processes to explain the dynamic nature of living things, their interactions, and the results from the interactions that occur over time in the “Diversity of Life”. Students will collect evidence in an effort to verify the claim of biologists that the features of organisms connect or differentiate them. These include external and internal structures, features and processes. Students will learn examples and explain that organisms sorted into groups share similarities and external structures as well as similarities in internal anatomical structures.

Mrs. Fletcher

Reading/Language Arts

Welcome to a new semester! We have worked extremely hard so far this school year. I am very proud of all the work that we have accomplished. MSA Testing is coming up next month. We have been preparing for this test all year. In the final month leading up to the test, we will continue working with the online Study Island program. Students have been given their login information. While we will continue working on this program in class, there will also be homework assignments given that students will need to work on. Please make sure they are staying up to date on these assignments so that they can be well prepared for the test.



There will be several other things taking place during the month of February. We will finish up *The Road to Memphis*. There are several activities we will complete both in class and at home. These activities will include literature circles, storyboards, scene performances, and an essay. There will also be an assessment on the entire novel as well as a take home project. More information will be given within the first few weeks of February.

We will continue working on our Poetry unit. Throughout the unit, students will be writing several different types of poetry. As of now, the goal is to combine all of these different works to have two class collections (one collection for 701 and one for 702). At the end of the unit students will be given an opportunity to share out their different poems. Students will write poetry that will use the skills we have learned in class.

The Unit 4 Big Question is “What is the best way to communicate?” While taking a look at poetry, students will try to answer this question given what they have learned in class. In addition to poetry, students will also look at different types of informational texts, including technical directions, product warranty information, magazine articles, and educational songs. Among the literary skills that we will take a look at during February are drawing conclusions, figurative language, paraphrasing, sound devices, imagery, and narrative poetry.

Our main focus on grammar will be basic sentence parts and phrases and clauses. Students will take a look at these and practice them throughout the month. We will also have several writing assignments throughout the month. Our first major writing assignment will be an essay for assessment. Students will be given a choice of three different topics to write about. We will walk through the process together. The purpose of this assignment is to get students ready for the upcoming testing season. Within the next few weeks, students will also work on a problem-and-solution essay.

Social Studies

Excellent work on the Hammurabi's Code projects! Students have been given their rubrics back. In Social Studies, we will begin working on ancient Egypt. This will bring us into our 3rd Quarter project---Making Your Own Pyramid! As with the Hammurabi's Code project, students will be allowed to work with one other person. This project will be introduced by mid-February and will be due toward the end of March. This will be a major part of the 3rd Quarter Social Studies grade. Please make sure that you turn in all parts of your project and on time. This will ensure success for the final project.

Final Thoughts

As you can see, there is a lot going on in February. Additionally, all students have been given the information and guidelines for the Imagine Schools National Character Essay Contest. Please note that this is NOT an optional contest. All students must submit an entry. These must be submitted no later than February 10, 2012. This will count as part of the 3rd Quarter grade for Language Arts.

Lastly, report cards have recently come out. If you would like to schedule a parent-teacher conference, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me. You can either call the school at 301-808-4003 or email me at brian.cuvo@pgcps.org and we will schedule a mutually convenient time. Let's make it a great month!

Mr. Cuvo



Hello Parents!

I am hoping that January finds you well. I sent out a letter a few weeks back detailing some of the plans that I wanted to implement for the sixth and seventh grades. In hind sight, I should have waited before sending the letter out. I apologize...my excitement got the best of me. Nevertheless, I do plan on doing what I believe works in the best interest of the educational needs of your child. We will now have three groupings for each grade level and class and a sublevel of one. The groupings are Advanced, On-Grade Level, and Approaching Grade Level.

1. Advanced students are those that have consistently operated in the area of 90 – 100 throughout the course of the school year. In the Seventh Grade this means they will be introduced to Algebra One early. They will still be with the whole group during the instructional period. During the B days they will have a small group lessons for their activities. For the Sixth grade, they will also still participate in the whole group lesson and will use the Course 3 book as a resource. There will be no change of classes so as to maintain attendance and consistency. This is done through differentiated instruction, so there is no need for the switch. Since they are working on the same skills there is no need for small group lessons.
2. On-Grade level students will continue as they were.
3. Approaching students will use the same book but will have small groups on a daily basis with me in the sixth grade and A days for the 7th grade. Another resource that we have is afternoon school tutoring for those students who have perpetually not scored their best. We want to end the pattern by getting them extra time and then keeping it up for the whole school term even after testing.
4. Student Whiteboard Assistance program. In my latest efforts to ensure success, I have come up with the SWAP, here is how it works:
 - a. Parent or student contacts Mr. Seneque and requests assistance with a problem.
 - b. I do it on the Ipad Whiteboard app and it is saved as a picture.
 - c. That picture is then either mailed to an email, tweeted as a photo tweet, or send to a Smartphone as a photo message.
 - d. Parent or child sees and child completes the problem.

If you have any questions about the things listed here please feel free to contact me via email, twitter @skinnymath, or text/call. Don't forget there is a ton of information at www.skinnymath.org.

Mr. Seneque