

Parent News March 2010

Important Dates in March:

- 5th No School for students – Teacher Record's Day
- 8th Trimester 3 begins
- 12th Activity Night sponsored by 8th grade class
- 15th Report Cards mailed home
- 15th OMS Parent Information Night – Character Traits, bullying in middle schools
- 15th Talent Show tryouts
- 23rd Rosetta Stone Feast
- 29th OMS Talent Show 6:30 p.m. NOSD Commons
- 30th Cyber bullying Presentation – all grades Parents are welcome

Spring Break Friday April 2 through Friday April 9

Messages

Wisconsin Knowledge and Concept Exam (WKCE) results have arrived. They will be sent home through the mail with the report cards.

Pennies for Patients
Leukemia and Lymphoma Society
February 1st – March 12th

We are coming to the end of Pennies for Patients. Donation boxes are located in each classroom. The classes are competing against one another; 5th versus 6th and 7th versus 8th. Silver and paper count toward the positive. Pennies count toward the negative. In other words pennies are subtracted from the silver and paper count. Our goal is \$750.00.

Teddy Bear Patrol
March 22nd – April 23rd

Rachel's Challenge is collecting Teddy Bears for the Teddy Bear Patrol. The teddy bears will be donated to Children in Crisis. They must be new stuffed animals. Last year 43 schools participated, collecting over 5,000 bears. Please bring donations to the middle school.

The Emus Have Arrived

They are expected to begin hatching the second week in April. The emu project is a hands-on extension of 8th grade life science. Eighth graders weigh measure and turn the eggs throughout the incubation period. Come on in and check them out!

Recycling Drive

April 24th from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. @ Northern Ozaukee School District
Worm Castings and Potting Soil also available

Generations apart and yet...

Monday, March 22nd Middle School Student Council members will lead an "Introduction to Technology" class for senior citizens of the community. Three middle school students will become lead computer teachers, explaining parts of a computer, performing basic internet searches and sharing other surprises along the way. Each senior citizen will have his or her own "middle school mentor". The mentor will be there strictly as a coach, helping should any questions or concerns arise. Students comfort with and interest in computers combined with senior citizens desire to learn can lead to wonderful and memorable moments for all involved.

"What did you do in school today?"

Fifth Graders

- Making judgments by connecting details from stories my own values and beliefs
- Using reading strategies of checking for understanding, crosschecking, and identifying interesting words
- Learning about Pilgrims, Separatists, Massachusetts Bay and the Mayflower Compact
- Using line plots to find the mean, median, mode, range, gaps, clusters, and outliers of a set of data
- Working with fractions, decimals, and mixed numbers
- Learning about friendship, conflict, and compromise

Sixth Graders

- Using the part-whole interpretation of fractions to create a set of fraction strips
- Using fraction strips and symbolic representations of fractions to describe real-world situations
- Explaining how the earth's surface drives the water cycle, how weather systems move from high to low, and identifying layers in the earth's atmosphere

A look at seventh and eighth grades next month

The Discover Lab: GRADE 8

Eighth grade Discover Lab is a technology lab, designed to give students a look at the field of mechanical engineering through the use of computer and Lego technology. The class combines "core" academics with innovative learning strategies. During the first six weeks of this nine-week class students create a notebook entitled "Engineering Resource Kit." Students are exposed to over 20 engineering lessons, ranging from simple belt driven machines to a working Lego transmission. For each of the lessons students are responsible for learning the vocabulary and answering multiple choice and short answer questions, all of which will go into their notebook. These twenty Lego lessons often emphasize and reinforce skills taught during science and math classes. Examples include measuring wheel circumference multiple ways, calculating mechanical advantage and finding gear ratios.

This year, for the first time, students will have the opportunity to link Discover Lab to the important Language Arts skill of Technical Writing, which is growing necessity in the 21st Century. To do this, students will be expected to use their knowledge from the "Engineering Resource Kit" mentioned above to free build a project of their choice. Next, students will have to use technical writing skills to write directions on how to build their free build machine. Students will be expected to take digital photographs of each step of the build and design an instruction manual for their machine.

Finally, during the last two weeks of class, students will participate in an activity called "Engineering Impossible." During this time, students will be given a mission to complete in approximately 4-5 days working in small groups (3-4 students). In the past, students typically completed two of these missions during the class time. The most popular missions have included groups creating different amusement park rides, or redesigning Miller Park, complete with a working retractable roof. Other possible missions for the class may include a ping pong ball launcher or the fastest/strongest crane. A typical Engineering Impossible mission has four main parts. First, students must each design a blueprint with a written explanation telling how their plan includes a mechanical advantage. Next, students will work to build their mission. This typically takes 2-3 days. While they are building, students will work on the third aspect of the mission, creating a parts list. A parts list details what equipment would be needed if another group tried to recreate the lesson. Lastly, students are expected to write a small reflection piece explaining their role in the group, then the roles of the others in their group.

In Discover Lab it is common to see Digital cameras, computers and Flip cams alongside student notebooks and written assignments. These tools allow students to apply cutting edge technology to their studies while making many cross-categorical connections. Each quarter brings with it continued student successes and stronger class lessons!

Use the links below to see just a glimpse of what students create in the class.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_GqLviBkWpk

<http://www.youtube.com/user/nosdoms#p/a/u/0/R8GnASRfqVw>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/nosdoms#p/a/u/1/RNAOk8evknA>

