

BOONTON MIDDLE SCHOOL
WEEKLY UPDATE
December 16, 2011

Mr. O'Dell's History Class:

This week, in Mr. O'Dell's Social Studies class, the students used a Standards-Solution based lesson on speculative writing. Their skills were developed in applying details to Characters, Setting, Conflict, and Solution. They were also shown how far these simple skills can go in achieving an advanced proficient essay. They were also involved in deep, thought provoking discussions about the Electoral College, the Election of 1876, the End of Reconstruction, and Jim Crow Laws. When students learned of the separate facilities for African American citizens, they were prompted to write a reaction statement from the perspective of someone who was denied service, which were shared. The students had a Jeopardy review on Thursday for their Chapter 17 test, which took place on Friday, December 16th.

Ms. Comer's Social Studies Class:

Ms. Comer: This week the 7th grade social studies classes created a physical and political map of Canada. Students identified the major landforms found in Canada, such as the Rocky Mountains and Hudson Bay. The classes also took the assessment on the 25 essential vocabulary terms. Congrats to all the students who were 25/25. Good Job!

Ms. Jamiolkowski's Science Class:

Ms. Jamiolkowski: The 7th grade continued in their Energy unit this week. On Monday, each lab team created an experiment to answer the following question: Is the combination of vinegar with baking soda an endothermic or exothermic reaction? On Tuesday, the teams explained the design of their experiment to the rest of the class and then performed it for them. Across the board, each lab team's unique design proved this reaction to be endothermic.

Mr. Nosal's Science Class:

Mr. Nosal's class is beginning their unit on the periodic table of elements. The students are identifying how the idea of the periodic table was developed, the different groups in the periodic table and the characteristics of different elements. The classes also observed which elements are important to humans and which elements are used in everyday life.

Ms. Wood's LAL Class:

Final letters are due this week to send out. We cannot wait for responses! The last weekly SSR assignment is due. The final project date is January 9, 2012. Classes continue the guided reading processes of their class novels: *Stargirl* / *Flowers for Algernon*. Spelling and Vocabulary unit studies continue as usual.

Mr. Hansen's LAL Class:

Students have taken a short break from our class novel. Most students are progressing very well through the somewhat difficult novel, but the break will allow those who have fallen a bit behind to catch up and will give a short break to all student readers. The class has focused our reading attention this week to the short story "The Sound of Thunder" by Ray Bradbury. Bradbury, who has also authored a short story previously read in class, writes an intense sci-fi story that is sure to wrap in all readers. He also does a great job of portraying the many character types we have discussed previously in class. Students will end their reading of the story by dissecting all characters in the terms we have discussed. Students have also begun the preliminary stages of our school's Spelling Bee. All students were given a list of roughly 100 words on Monday. These words, of seventh and eighth grade level, were to be studied throughout the week in preparation for a written assessment on Friday. While the "test" on Friday will not be graded for class, the top 20 to 25 students in each grade will move on to our school-wide Bee in January. I wish all students the best of luck!

Mr. Robinson's Math Class:

7th grade math weekly update for week ended December 16th.
All 7th grade math students are working on simplifying expressions involving zero and negative exponents. They are also writing large and small numbers using scientific notation.

Ms. Sohl's Math Class:

Pre-Algebra students are solving and graphing two-step inequalities. Students are able to combine inequalities into one statement. Students are also able to solve and graph compound inequalities on a number line.

Algebra students are writing equations in function form. They are using function form to find solution for given values and recognizing that these values are ordered pairs. Students are also able to solve for the unknown value of x when the value of the function is given.

Mr. Aquino's Physical Education Class:

We have just about completed our first week of volleyball for my per2 and per3 classes, with one week to go. I know it is a quick unit but remember winter break is right around the corner. That goes for per5 9th grade and per6 and per7 for the 7th and 8th graders who will be finishing up hockey. Keep up the good work

Mr. Engelberger's Physical Education/Health Classes:

7th and 8th Grade Health classes have been using the past two weeks to prepare for their unit test in Nutrition. Students will take their test in health class the week of 12/19-12/23. The chapter outline and review sheet gone over in class covers the material for the test. Throughout this unit, classes have learned about the BMI scale and the obesity chart and discussed their inconsistencies. Students have also analyzed the way companies try to sell food products and the setup of the Food Guide Pyramid. On the test, students will show their knowledge of nutrients, nutrition and calorie intake.

Ms. Jones' Physical Education/Health Classes:

Ms. Reich's Spanish Class:

7th Grade Spanish: Students have been learning to tell time

8th Grade: Students have been comparing SER and ESTAR verbs

Mr. Diaz' Spanish Class:

This week the 8th graders made a cultural and seasonal connection in Spanish as they learned about the opposite seasons in the southern hemisphere. The 7th graders have been learning how to conjugate -ar ending verbs in the present tense to talk about things they or others do. Both levels seem to have been absorbing the material quite well.

Ms. Acevedo's Spanish Class:

Students in Mrs. Acevedo's 7th grade class continue to learn vocabulary related to school supplies and clothing as well as the conjugation of verbs ending in "-ar" in Spanish.

Ms. vonEssen's French Class:

Our French students have been working with verbs that end in "re" while continuing with their train related vocabulary. They have also been learning about some of the famous sites around Paris, France.

Ms. Oliveri's Art Class:

7th grade continued their Pop Art while 8th graders worked on their Pointillism projects.

Ms. Kraa's Art Class:

7th Grade Art students worked on the "Your World" assignment. Some students are adding images while others are still adding patterns and designs. Students, who have finished both of the aforementioned aspects of the artwork, are adding silver and gold touches.

8th Grade Art students are working on a "Playbill" for a theater, some are still brainstorming for ideas, while others are working on the finished design. The next goal for completing this project is to add color to the work.

EVENTS

Boonton Middle School had another successful dance which was sponsored by our student council. Our students enjoyed good music, tasty food and the company of great friends. Our next dance will run on February 10, 2012.



**BOONTON MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC NEWS
December 16, 2011**

WINTER SPORTS

The Girls Basketball Team will play at home today Friday, December 16th at John Hill School (435 Lathrop Avenue), against Briarcliff School at 3:30 PM.

The Boys Basketball Team will play away today at Briarcliff Scholl in Mountain Lakes at 3:30 PM

There will be no Middle School Basketball games or practices during the winter recess.

Good Luck to all of our teams!

Be sure to check the website listed below or dial 973-335-9700 x 5007 after 1:00 PM for the daily sports schedules and for changes to those schedules.

GO BOMBERS !!!

Highschoolsports.net under 'High School' will have our schedules and all updates for the season. If the weather causes schedule changes they will be announced on the school sports line. You can call 973-335-9700x7 for updates. They are usually posted by 1:00 PM.

Upcoming Events

December 20 - Progress Reports Mailed Home

December 23 - Early Dismissal

December 26 - January 1 - Winter Recess