

**BOONTON MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**WEEKLY UPDATE**  
**December 23, 2011**

**MR. O'DELLS SOCIAL STUDIES CLASS:**

This week, in Mr. O'Dell's Social Studies class, the students were introduced to the period of time following American Reconstruction, which was the full development of the West, via the Transcontinental Railroad. Students were introduced to the several companies that made up the TCR, in addition to the legislation that made it all possible. To get a hands-on experience, students were tasked with creating their own railroad tickets, to be put on display in the classroom.

**Ms. Jamiolkowski's Science Class:**

Ms. Jamiolkowski: This week, students finished their unit on Energy and began their 6th unit, Motion and Forces. As an introductory lesson, students calculated their own average speed while traveling from point A to point B in various ways. Each university team picked different methods that ranged from hopping, to moon walking, to crawling. We hope everyone enjoys their winter break!

**Mr. Nosal's Science Class:**

Mr. Nosal's classes continue to look at the periodic table of elements. The students conducted a lab where they were able to distinguish the elements by their flame color that was emitted. The students then identified the positive and negative ions for each compound. The classes have also looked at radioactive elements and their impact on human lives. We looked at how certain elements are key in nuclear reactors and how if not treated properly can lead to a meltdown.

**Ms. Wood's LAL Class:**

SSR Projects are due JANUARY 9, 2012!. Please use time wisely and do not wait until the night before to complete the project. We are entering the last third of our class novels. And things are getting interesting. What will happen to Stargirl, to Charlie? We make predictions using context clues and information given. We are having some crazy ideas. Spelling and vocabulary continue as usual. Happy Winter!

**Mr. Hansen's LAL Class:**

Students spent the majority of this week focusing on their upcoming Self-Selected Reading Projects. Since early October, all students have put in weeks of reading a novel outside of the classroom. These novels, selected by each student personally, have been concluded this past week and are leading to a major project due after the Break. Students were to arrive to class on Monday with a draft, at which time each and every student had a teacher-student conference with Mr. Hansen. Questions were answered, tips were given, writing was edited, and hopefully all students moved a bit closer to a final project. As the conferences wrapped up midweek, all classes completed the reading of Ray Bradbury's short story "The Sound of Thunder". The complicated sci-fi story of time travel and dinosaur hunting served a larger purpose than its enthralling plot; the story goes great lengths in helping our students apply and deduce character types from the morally questionable bunch of explorers detailed by Bradbury. Students were able to recall the previous lesson on character types, apply the terms to story notes, and reason with one another as to why each character embodies some of the detailed traits. All students appeared to enjoy the story quite a bit. Our week ended with the closing of a Wordly Wise unit and the attached test. I wish all students and their families a safe and happy Holiday Season!

**Mr. Robinson's Math Class:**

7th grade Honors have been factoring monomials and finding the Greatest Common Factor of two or more numbers using prime factorization.  
7th grade Pre-Algebra have been adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers with the same denominator

**Ms. Sohl's Math Class:**

Pre-Algebra students are listing factors and identifying prime and composite numbers. Students are using the factor tree to find the prime factorization of numbers and monomials.  
Algebra students are writing linear function in point-slope form. Given point-slope form, students are graphing the linear function. Students are to use point-slope form to solve for unknown variable.

**Mr. Engelberger's Physical Education/Health Classes:**

This week in Health class, 7th and 8th graders finished up their Nutrition unit with a chapter test. Any students that were absent and have not completed the test will be responsible for making it up when we return from winter break. Review packets and note sheets were used during the test. Material covered on the test consisted of calories, nutrients, My Pyramid and various definitions. When classes return to health class, we will shift focus away from nutrition and into exercise. Classes will analyze the calorie in/calorie out scale in regards to different exercises. In groups, class members will break down a sport and/or physical exercise and share their findings on muscles/muscle groups used, level of hydration, duration and intensity of exercise and an educated guess on calories that will be burned.

In Physical Education classes, middle school students have continued to participate in the floor hockey unit. All classes will be active during game play. Through this, players will focus on correct skill technique in passing, trapping and shooting. Everyone will rotate positions so that all students will have a chance to play offense, defense and goalie. To conclude the unit, classes will be required to write a 1-2 page paper covering the rules, history and strategy of the sport of hockey.

#### **Ms. Jones' Physical Education/Health Classes:**

BMS 7th and 8th graders continued their Floor Hockey Unit. Both classes played in numerous games allowing themselves to improve their skills. In 7th grade the classes played girls vs. boys and the girls dominated every game but one. In 8th grade they opted to play girls vs. girls and boys vs. boys. Both classes were extremely competitive and played hard from the beginning of the class until the whistle.

#### **Ms. Reich's Spanish Class:**

8<sup>th</sup> grade: Students have been working in the computer lab, creating dialogues for Chapter 8, in the target language. Students will present skits after the holiday

7<sup>th</sup> grade: Students started learning about "ar" verbs in the present tense, as well as about how Christmas is celebrated in Mexico

#### **Mr. Diaz' Spanish Class:**

This week the 8th graders have been learning new vocabulary in order to be able discuss cultural diversions such as going to the movies, museum or theatre. They have been doing excellent with the new words and working diligently on their assignments. The 7th graders have been mastering conjugation of the present tense to talk about what they or others are doing and all students seem to be coming around and performing at the same level. They are doing fabulous with these lessons.

#### **Ms. Oliveri's Art Class:**

7th Pop Art and 8th Pointillism is coming to a close. After break 7th graders will be doing origami, and 8th graders will be doing Calligraphy.

#### **Ms. Kraa's Art Class:**

The 7th Grade Art students are completing their "Your World" artwork. The students who have completed the project are mounting and signing it. The new assignment is a white charcoal sketch on black paper. This artwork demands a resource.

The 8th Grade Art students are working on a cover for a playbill. The theme is entertainment and the students are encouraged to keep it simple. Students are also asked to reflect a sense of perfection in their work .

### **RECOGNITIONS**

Boonton Middle school would like to recognize our 7<sup>th</sup> grade math students have worked very hard and have prepared to compete in the first annual Robinson Mad Math Minutes competition. Good luck mathematicians!

Boonton Middle school would also like to thank Mrs. SanGiovanni and her choir. They provided beautiful holiday music as they caroled throughout the hallways of BHS and BMS.

### **PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our Bomber families and healthy, happy and safe holiday break. May you and your friends and family spend quality time together. Thank you all for a wonderful start to the school year and I am looking forward to 2012.

Ms. Jacki Richardson



**BOONTON MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC NEWS**  
December 23, 2011

**WINTER SPORTS**

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

**Have a Safe, Healthy and Happy Holiday. See you in 2012!**

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**

**JANUARY 2 - School re-opens**