

## BOONTON MIDDLE SCHOOL WEEKLY UPDATE

### Mr. O'Dell's History Class:

This week in Mr. O'Dell's Social Studies class, the students covered the birth of a mostly conservative (term introduced last week) group during the Reconstruction era, the Ku Klux Klan. Students were also shown a comparison between the election of 1876, and the election of 2000, both considered our nation's most controversial. Segregation was discussed as being introduced, and students were in the computer lab Thursday, working on a Civil Rights WebQuest.

### Ms. Comer's Social Studies Class:

Ms. Comer: This week the 7th grade social studies classes completed the unit on the physical and human geography of the United States. Students were tested on the unit and began the next unit. They started the new unit by making a physical and political map of Canada.

### Ms. Jamiolkowski's Science Class:

Ms. Jamiolkowski: Students this week continued in their Energy unit. Specifically, they focused on thermal energy and chemical energy. Labs they participated in include "Can you observe a temperature change?" along with a Potential and Kinetic Energy lab.

### Mr. Nosal's Science Class:

Mr. Nosal's class completed their unit on plate tectonics. The student will be beginning their unit on chemistry. We are going to look at how scientists discovered the parts of the atom and what the modern day atom model looks like today.

### Ms. Wood's LAL Class:

Letter drafts are ready to be peer edited! We are writing to other Seventh Graders in various locations of the United States. This letter writing helps us practice formal writing and a letter format. We can use these techniques on the NJASK! *Stargirl* and *Flowers for Algernon* are becoming interesting as we watch our main characters develop and change. Interesting discussions and questions are being covered. Spelling, grammar, and vocabulary continue to be covered on a weekly basis.

### Mr. Hansen's LAL Class:

We spent much time in class this week attempting to directly improve students' writing. Students spent Tuesday learning of words that sound the same but are written differently (homophones/homonyms). Students have displayed some difficulty directly applying the correct use of words such as 'to', 'too' and 'two'. With a quick mini-lesson followed by some introspective work, it is hoped students will begin applying the lesson to future writing. Students also took a previous lesson on writing dialogue and learned how to more directly apply the lesson to their speculative writing. Again, students used teacher-generated examples and their own work to maximize their speculative proficiency. Much of this week was also spent on continuing our reading of *The Kite Rider*. Now a third of the way through the novel, students are beginning to take in the 'rising action' and get wrapped into the story of young Haoyou. The week ended with a Wordly Wise test to check understanding of our new set of expanded vocabulary. Once again, it is hoped these words find their way into student writing in the form of extended vocabulary.

### Mrs. Morley's LAL and Math Classes:

Language Arts Grades 7 & 8

The class practiced answering open-ended analytical questions based on reading passages from their novels. They also continued to relate literary elements to the novels *Stargirl* and *Call of the Wild*. The writing prompt this week allowed for the students to put themselves in the job of the school principal and discuss one thing they would change in the school. After completing their essay, the students used the editing technique they learned to revise their essays.

Math Grade 7 & 8

The students practice identifying important information in short and open ended response questions. The 7th graders continued with Scientific Notation and the 8th graders worked on identifying and plotting points on a coordinate plane.

### Mr. Robinson's Math Class:

7th grade Algebra 1 students are learning how to graph functions using the format of  $f(x) = mx + b$ .  
7th grade Pre-Algebra are learning the rules of negative and zero exponents, along with scientific notation.

### Ms. Sohl's Math Class:

Pre-Algebra students are solving inequalities involving addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Students are able to write the inequality, describe it, and graph it.

Algebra students are writing equations that are parallel or perpendicular to a given line passing through a given point. Students are then graphing these lines in the coordinate plane to verify their solution. Students are recognizing if a function represents direct variation. If so, students identify the constant of variation.

### Mr. Aquino's Physical Education Class:

Finishing up with basketball, will be starting volleyball and hockey for the classes next week. Students still working on daily fit log, some are keeping up with the work, while others need to get involved more on the

website. Also Edline is being updated with information and quiz reviews for the unit we just completed, hope most of you are actually going on EdLine unlike the last couple of quizzes. Good luck!

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

This week in Physical Education class, 7th and 8th grade students will conclude their two week basketball unit. Students have been active and engaged in game play through small sided games and knockout tournaments. In this time, class members have worked to improve on basic skills such as dribbling, passing and shooting. Next week, classes will move into a PE unit geared around field hockey. This unit will allow all students (male and female) to gain a better understanding of the rules, techniques and strategies behind the sport. In health class, 7th and 8th graders have gone over definitions to fully understand how the body takes in and uses food. Classes have learned the difference in digestion, metabolism and nutrition and how all three affect the body. At the same time, students have learned the uses of all nutrients and what they do for the body.

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

This week the BMS 8th graders finished their basketball unit. Each student focused on certain skills that they wanted to improve. Their choices were shooting, defense, offense, and or rebounding. Their next unit is floor hockey.

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

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Students have been learning to make sentences plural and describe courses.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Students have been describing minor illnesses and symptoms

**Ms. Acevedo's Spanish Class:**

Students in Mrs. Acevedo's 7th grade class are becoming familiar with vocabulary in Spanish related to school materials and clothing.

**Ms. vonEssen's French Class:**

The Middle school French students have been learning about verbs that end in RE. For fun, they have been watching their favorite scenes from Les Choriste.

**Ms. OLIVERI'S Art Class:**

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

**Ms. KRAA'S Art Class:**

The 7th Grade Art students spent the time working on part three of their "Your World" artwork. The students are in the process of creating images that are then added to their expression.

The 8th Grade Art students worked on the oil pastel assignment. The students, who have completed their oil pastel, are creating the cover for a "Playbill" using their imagination.



**BOONTON MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC NEWS  
December 9, 2011**

**WINTER SPORTS**

The Boys Basketball Team will play at home today Friday, December 9th at John Hill School (435 Lathrop Avenue), against Morristown-Beard School at 4:00 PM.

The Girls Basketball game for today is cancelled. The next Middle School game will be held on Monday, December 12 vs. Lincoln Park Middle School. The Boys will play at Home (JHS) the Girls will play at Morristown-Beard. Both games will start at 4:00 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 16 - Boonton Middle School Winter Concert

December 20 - Progress Reports mailed home

December 23 - Early dismissal