

**BOONTON MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**WEEKLY UPDATE**  
**February 3, 2012**

**Mr. O'DELL'S CLASS:**

This week, in Mr. O'Dell's Social Studies classes, students continued their discussion on American Inventions. They learned of famous inventors such as Cyrus Field, Alexander Graham Bell, Thomas Edison, and the Wright Brothers. Activities included a trip to the computer lab on Monday 1/30, where the students researched the history of an invention they found value in. Guided note taking and the construction of Newspaper articles conveying the importance of an invention were also activities the students were involved in. The students also viewed a timeline of American invention during the Industrial Revolution, our unit era, and recognized the importance of Industrial power throughout this time, by seeing the changing role of the U.S.

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

Ms. Comer: This week the 7th grade social studies class continued to learn about the physical geography of South America. The students began to learn about the human geography of the area and explored how European countries continue to have an impacted on the culture of South America. Students are continuing to read Whirligig and just completed chapters five and six.

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

Ms. Jamiolkowski: Earlier in the week, students identified the simple machines found in common household products. As part of one of their activities, they watched a minute clip of Home Alone and had to compile a list of the simple machines Kevin used to defend his home against the burglars. Later in the week, the students constructed single pulley systems and double pulley systems to be able to recognize the benefits of each.

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

Mr. Nosal's classes have begun reviewing for the Chapter 5 Test by doing numerous activities during class, such as doing a lab (called Evidence for Chemical Reactions). In this investigation, the students did the usual procedure of the Scientific Method. The students then mixed a few chemicals together to see if a chemical reaction took place. They then had to explain how they knew chemical reactions had occurred. The students were very productive during this exercise, and they were very good about cleaning up. Another activity during which the students were very productive was the chapter assessment game. The students completed a page in the textbook and answered the questions from the book for points. The Chapter 5 Test will be on Tuesday.

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

Classes spent the beginning of the week finishing up their group anchor charts on NJASK concepts. While the voting has not taken place and the awards have not been issued, the class is sure to be looking spectacular with informative and creative posters hung throughout. After the project, students renewed their focus on open-ended writing. Students were instructed to devote an entire period to reading a small portion of the assigned class novel and to respond to an open-ended question. Students appeared to successfully employ the 'R-S-S-E' format, complete with complex restatements, insightful text support, and extensions to their own life or surroundings. Student responses were quite encouraging! The end of the week brings the class down to the computer lab, where students will begin a Web Quest on research papers. All students will be undertaking the large project by the end of the year. These research papers will not only better equip students for high school expectations, but will also enable all students to more successfully connect concepts to a historical figure through their advanced knowledge and research.

**Ms. Wood's Class:**

This week we are focusing our studies on writing. Each class was introduced and/or worked on a specified writing task that targeted concepts of our class novels. The Honors course used information gained from a Web Quest activity to support or refute their interpretations of concepts found in *Flowers for Algernon*. The *Stargirl* writing task focuses on comparing and contrasting characters and themes from that and *The Outsiders*. Spelling, vocabulary and grammar studies continue to be covered as well.

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

The students are learning how to find missing angles in polygons and parallel lines this week.

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

Pre-Algebra students are multiplying and dividing positive and negative fractions in improper and mixed number form. Students are simplifying answers and determining whether their solutions make sense. Students are able to solve problems word problems involving fractions as well as solving fractions problems involving more than one operation.

Algebra students are solving linear systems through elimination by multiplying one or both of the equations in order to eliminate a variable. Students are verifying their solutions by substituting back into both equations. Students are able to determine if a linear system has one solution, no solution or infinitely many solutions.

### **Ms. Morley's Class:**

#### **Grade 7**

Stargirl projects were completed and presented in class this week. Each student selected a book for independent reading. An introduction was given for the next class novel *Flipped* by Wendelin Van Draanen.

#### **Grade 8**

The students continue reading their independent books. This week they were introduced to the class novel *Anne Frank: A Diary of a Young Girl*. Prior background knowledge of the Holocaust was assessed. Background information and a timeline of events leading to the Holocaust were provided for the students. This was done in order to give them a better idea of the atmosphere during this time in history.

Math

#### **Grade 7**

Students review how to find equivalent fractions using manipulates. This allowed for those students who are visual learners to get a better idea of what equivalent fractions look like.

#### **Grade 8**

In the 8th grade, we reviewed evaluating numerical equations and finding the least common multiples (LCM) and greatest common factors (GCF) of a set of numbers.

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

7th and 8th grade Health classes with Mr. Engelberger are starting to shift topic focuses away from nutrition and into infectious diseases, still remaining on the Physical Health aspect of the triangle. Students will learn about diseases and how germs, viruses and pathogens can move from person to person. Classes will learn about the immune system and why it is so important in staying healthy and fighting off illnesses. Together, in the classroom, we will read about and discuss HIV and AIDS and how that attacks the body. Students will understand the difference between AIDS and HIV and be able to pinpoint ways that it can and cannot spread from person to person.

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

8<sup>th</sup> grade: Students completed the unit on Ecuador, and have been using vocabulary to describe winter and summer activities

7<sup>th</sup> grade: Students completed the unit about the people and culture of Mexico

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

Students in Mrs. Acevedo's 7th grade Spanish class continue to talk about school and school activities in Spanish. Students are also working on a marking period project.

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

The eighth grade French class recently worked on an activity where they asked each other questions about the activities from the day before. It was a great way for them to talk in the past tense while using their vocabulary words about sports and recreation.

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

The Calligraphy students are working on perfecting their letters and choosing a poem or lyric to work from, and the Origami students are using online tutorials to create more difficult origami projects.

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

This past week the 7th Grade Art class focused on two art projects. They completed their "Pastel Art" assignment and they also worked on their "Abstract Art." A lot of enthusiasm was observed regarding this art. In addition, the students are learning how to mount and sign their art. The 8th Grade Art class continued working on the "Parent Themed" design. They worked on completing their drawing, so that they could outline their idea using a skinny marker. Some students were ready to color their art and they began doing that.

## EVENTS

January 10 – Valentines Black Light Dance (6:30 – 9:00 pm)



**BOONTON MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC NEWS**  
February 3, 2012

## SPRING SPORTS

The Boonton Middle School winter season has come to a close. Coaches are now collecting uniforms. Please be certain your child returns their uniform to their coach as soon as possible to avoid any fines.

Next Wednesday, February 8, Spring Sport Sign-up meetings will take place after school. Your child will pick up Athletic Physical and Permission forms that will need to be completed and returned to the nurse immediately. The forms must be processed and ready in time for your child to participate in the school physicals offered on February 14 and 21. If your child played a fall and/or winter sport, they still **MUST COMPLETE** a new set of forms for the spring.

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.