

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

**Mr. O'Dell's Class:**

This week, in Mr. O'Dell's Social Studies classes, the students learned about the rise of the farmer in the American Midwest. Several topics were introduced, including the desire for farmers to succeed. Students learned of Interest Groups and the concept of "wholesaling" and were tasked with creating their own business, complete with a name, slogan, and product that they specialized in. Students were responsible for demonstrating an understanding of the wholesaling concept. Students also learned about the earliest interest groups in the United States, The National Grange and the Farmer's Alliance. MADD was an example of a present day Interest Group the students learned about. They were quizzed at the end of the week and continued to move through the historical drama novel, *The Wave*.

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

Ms. Comer- This week the 7th grade social studies classes completed the unit on Central America. Students took the unit test on Thursday and did a wonderful job! Also, the classes have been reading chapters 1 and 2 of Whirligig. We will be reviewing for the second marking period assessment next week.

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

Ms. Jamiolkowski: Science students have completed their study of Forces and Motion this week. They participated in a few more demonstrations that reinforce Newton's three laws, and they now know how to calculate Force in terms of Newton's. Next week, students will start preparing for their MP2 Assessment.

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

Mr. Nosal's class continued their unit on chemical bonding. The students conducted an activity where they received positive and negative ions. They then had to "bond with a classmate" to form either an ionic or covalent bond. The students figured out the type of bond that they formed and wrote out what the chemical formula was when they were paired together.

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

SSR Projects are in and they look FABULOUS! Great job to the students for making such creative projects! Our Seventh Grade spelling put up great efforts during the annual Spelling Bee on January 11th. Congratulations to Rainer F. for placing! The classes continue to progress through their assigned novels. We are nearing the end and discovering interesting facts about our main characters! Spelling, vocabulary, and grammar are continuing with new spelling rules, definitions and grammar components.

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

We have progressed noticeably through *The Kite Rider*, our class novel, this week. Students came to class Monday having read over the weekend. Class discussions and group reading have taken place for the start of the week, keeping all students on track and clear with reading comprehension. Students have also been introduced to the second Self-Selected Reading expectations. All students have chosen a book and will get started over this coming week. By mid-April, students, or student groups if they so choose, will complete a second SSR project. The theme of the newest project is group collaboration and multimedia projects. We are all very excited for our new round of presentations this April. Toward the end of the week, students directed focus toward Open-Ended writing. This assessment applies directly to student assessment as it is a major aspect of the NJASK test. In coming weeks, students will begin practicing skills such as connecting to text and supporting ideas from a text citation. I am confident all students will be proficient with these skills come the April exam.

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

7th grade Algebra and Pre-Algebra have been learning how to multiply and divide fractions and mixed numbers that have either the same, or different denominators. Students are using their prior skills on reducing fractions by finding their greatest common factor.

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

Pre-Algebra students are finding the least common denominator of fractions in order to compare them or list them from least to greatest. Students are simplifying expression with exponents by using the rules of exponents. Students are also able to simplify expression involving negative exponents.

Algebra students are finding solutions to absolute value inequalities. They are able to write and solve absolute value inequalities involving absolute error. Students are graphing inequalities with two variables. Students are checking their solution by substituting back into the inequality to verify their graph is correct.

**Ms. Morley's Class:**

**Language Arts**

Both grades 7 & 8 participated in the Annual Scripps Spelling Bee on Wednesday. Congratulations to the winners!

The 7th grade will be finishing the novel *Stargirl* over the weekend. We anticipate on starting the book projects shortly thereafter.

In period one grade 8 Language Arts the students worked on getting their *Call of the Wild* project done. We are looking forward to reading many interesting front page news articles based on the novel *Call of the Wild*.

This week's speculative writing prompt entailed students imagining that a famous producer was coming to town to hold auditions for an upcoming movie. The lesson completed in their Wordly Wise text was #15.

### **Math**

Grade 7 Math continued working on mean, mode, median and range. They took the data a little bit further and created stem and leaf plots.

Grade 8 Math was introduced to solving inequalities for the unknown. They also learned how to create a verbal model from a word problem as well as how to solve it.

Both classes continue practicing short constructive responses as well as extended responses for problem solving.

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

This is almost the final week of the unit. Teams are rounding into form and the playoffs will begin next Tuesday with the Championships happening that Thursday. Also start to prepare for the end of the marking period exam which will take place next Wednesday. And students working in the weight room keep up the good work and routines.

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

This week in Mr. Engelberger's health classes, students have continued their group work on their Eating Disorder Project. Each group has been assigned a specific common eating disorder to research and report on. (Anorexia, Bulimia, Binging, Purging and Compulsive Over Eating) Splitting class time between the computer lab (with Internet access) and the classroom, group members have worked together to design a poster/presentation to inform their classmates about what they have learned. Presentations will consist of information regarding symptoms, warning signs and health problems, both mental and physical, of someone suffering from this eating disorder. This will include statistics and facts about gender, age group and other demographics that are most likely to develop such a problem. Treatment options and opportunities will be shown and each group will find a famous person that has battled with an eating disorder. Presentations will be made in class the week of 1/23.

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

Ms. Jones' 7th and 8th grade classes are continuing their Volleyball unit. Each class is working on each of the skills of volleyball including the bump, set, and control of each pass. Next week they will be starting their volleyball tournament. Their unit test will be on January 18, 2012.

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

8<sup>th</sup> grade: Students have been working in the computer lab researching Ecuador in order to create their projects

7<sup>th</sup> grade: Students have been learning about making School Supply Purchases using "ar" verbs in the present tense

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

This week the 7th graders improved their clothing vocabulary and learned body parts by playing Lingo Bingo. They also participated in a cultural group reading and discussion after they read the story "La moneda de oro" about a poor man that is out of work and finds a gold coin. They really enjoyed the story and were fabulous with translations.

The 8th graders completed a review and written assessment in Spanish using the preterit tense of -er and -ir ending verbs. They also started learning about indirect object pronouns in Spanish; "le" and "les" to talk about what people do for others.

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

8th grade French students have just begun a new chapter about sports and recreation.

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

The middle school art classes have their choice this project to learn calligraphy or origami. So far, it is about 50/50. They are enjoying the different medium.

## **EVENTS & Acknowledgements**

### **Congratulations to:**

- Kaveesha Kodituwakku on winning first place in the Boonton Middle School Spelling Bee

### **8th Grade Washington DC Class Trip:**

- Washington D.C. deposits will be going home next week. The deposit amount will be \$175. All initial deposits are due by February 23rd.



Girls' basketball: The girls' basketball team had an excellent week. They recently defeated Dover 56-45 and currently have a record of 6-5. Eighth graders Rhiannon Groll and Chelsea Davis have already scored over 100 points for the season.

### **Upcoming Events**

**January 16 – Schools closed for students**