

**BOONTON MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**WEEKLY UPDATE**  
**January 6, 2012**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

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

Ms. Comer: This week the 7th grade social studies classes continued learning about the countries of Central America. Students created both political and physical maps of the region. Also, the classes went on a Caribbean adventure, identifying the island and other features that are part of the West Indies.

**MR. O'DELL'S SOCIAL STUDIES CLASS:**

This week, in Mr. O'Dell's Social Studies class, the students demonstrated a persuasive prowess by writing a letter to the board of education concerning iPads replacing foreign language classes. They then continued their discussion of the rapid American westward movement, with topics dealing heavily with Native American conflicts and relocation. The students took a short quiz at the end of the week, and continued to read the Social Studies novel, *The Wave*.

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

Ms. Jamiolkowski: Students explored Newton's three laws of motion this week by participating in various demonstrations. One activity to help in understanding the 1st Law included creating their own set of Newton Balls. They took five softballs, attached a piece of string to them, and then let them hang down from a meter stick. They were able to predict and then test what should happen when one ball is lifted and let to fall, when two balls are, etc. The 7th graders also continued reviewing how to calculate average speed and acceleration.

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

Mr. Nosal's class is working on ionic and covalent bonding. The students are looking at different compounds and determining what type of bond formed them. We constructed electron dot diagrams to represent the type of bonds formed.

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

Welcome back to a New Year! We are really focusing our energies this week on continuing our class novels. We played "Sticky Picky" to recall vital events and have been reading on! Spelling and vocabulary units have picked up where we have left off. DO NOT FORGET! SSR PROJECTS ARE DUE MONDAY JANUARY 9, 2012!

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

This week was largely devoted to student presentations of Self-Selected Reading Projects. SSR books have been read over the past few months, with a small window afterward to spend on project work and teacher-student conferences. All students were expected to take an idea from the list in the LAL curriculum, and tailor the concept to suit their individual skills and novels. Student projects were due Monday. Through Wednesday, classes were run by students, with volunteers standing in the front of the room for a five minute presentation. Students discussed their books, detailed their work on projects, and answered questions from students and Mr. Hansen. The experience in the front of the room can be quite tough for both young teens and adults, leading to a belief that continuing experiences with public speaking will help all students begin to overcome their fears. It is also nice to see students take pride in their hard work and take note of the work being done by their peers. Students did a great job becoming the 'teacher for the day'. I look forward to taking all students out of the comfort zone again, asking them to push their boundaries and develop new skills in front of the room.

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

Algebra 1 7th grade has been learning to solve problems involving monomials with positive and negative exponents.  
Pre-Algebra have been learning to solve problems involving mixed numbers with different denominators.

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

Pre-Algebra students are simplifying and comparing fractions. Students are simplifying and solving variable expression. Students are able to find the least common multiple of two or more numbers and of variable expressions. Algebra students are solving and graphing compound inequalities. Students are solving absolute value equations and recognizing that there are two solutions.

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

This week we have been working on and continuing our hockey season for period 2 and 3 9th graders. 5th period 9th grade will be working out the kinks in the weight room and trying to stick to a workout routine. 7th grade have completed their first week of speedball and 8th grade are like fish caught in the net, with our unit on volleyball.....Keep up the great work

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

This week in 7th and 8th grade health, classes began research on their Eating Disorders project. These ties in with the nutrition unit that we just concluded before break. After learning about what each nutrient does and why our body needs a healthy diet, we shifted our focus to what can happen if the body takes on little or no nutrients at all. The common disorders discussed in class were anorexia, bulimia and bingeing and purging.

Classes spent time in the computer lab to gather information on the specific disorder assigned to each group. Working in pairs, each student learned about treatments, prevention tools and symptoms of an eating disorder. Over the next couple of weeks, groups will present their findings to the class and look into actual celebrities that have suffered from these eating problems. Students will finish this unit with a greater understanding of what is meant when someone has varying eating patterns and be able to pinpoint the physical health problems that will occur in the body. This unit will also show students the correlation between a mental problem and how it can have SERIOUS EFFECTS ON THE PHYSICAL BODY.

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

##### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

Students have been learning to apply "ar" verbs, in the context of making "School Supply Purchases"

##### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

Students have been presenting their dialogues (Visit to the Doctor's Office and Filling a Prescription at the Pharmacy), and started working on the cultural unit of Ecuador

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

Students in Mrs. Acevedo's Spanish class continue to practice speaking Spanish about topics related school supplies and articles of clothing as well as conjugating verbs ending in "ar" in the present tense.

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

Our French students are learning about demonstrative adjectives while fine tuning their recall of the gender of nouns.

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

7th and 8<sup>th</sup> grade continued their Pop Art while 8th graders worked on their Pointillism projects.

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

This past week the 7th Grade Art students worked on a white charcoal sketch assignment. They either selected a resource to draw or used their imagination for subject matter. They were asked to note that the addition of colored pencils might make the work more interesting.

The 8th Grade art students continued working on their "Playbill" designs. They received appropriate instruction when needed. Some of the results reflect a sense of perfection. The students still need some more time to finish the project.



### **BOONTON MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC NEWS**

**January 6, 2012**

#### **WINTER SPORTS**

Boonton Middle School Girls and Boys Basketball Tournament games will take place from January 25<sup>th</sup> through February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Specific dates, times and game locations are being scheduled at this time and will be posted after January 14<sup>th</sup>.

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 9 – Harlem Wizards Assembly

January 10 – BMS Winter Concert

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

January 16 – School Closed for Students

January 26 – End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Marking Period

January 31 – Report Cards Mailed Home

January 31 – BMS Marking Period 1&2 Awards Assembly and Honors Breakfast