

## BOONTON MIDDLE SCHOOL WEEKLY UPDATE

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

This week, in Mr. O'Dell's Social Studies class, the students began learning about the "Reconstruction" period in American history. This term applies to nearly everything that needed to be rebuilt following the bloodiest conflict ever fought on American soil, the Civil War. Students began their discussions of relationships, new forms of politics, and the treatment of newly freed African American citizens, by taking part in several fun, enlightening activities. Key terms included Radicalism and Black Codes.

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

Ms. Comer- This week the 7th grade social studies classes worked on creating maps of the regions/countries of North America. The classes also completed a map of the United States. Students identified the 6 physical regions of the U.S. and created a color-coded map to display those regions.

### Ms. Jamiolkowski's Science Class:

Ms. Jamiolkowski: This week, the 7th graders continued in their Physical and Chemical Properties/Changes Unit. After exploring properties of acids and bases, students identified common household products as acidic or basic by using cabbage juice as a pH indicator. On Thursday, they were able to launch a baking soda and vinegar rocket to kick off their lesson on chemical changes.

### Mr. Nosal's Science Class:

Mr. Nosal's class is wrapping up their unit on volcanoes. In the last section the students were able to identify famous igneous rock features throughout the United States. This includes the great batholiths of Yellowstone National Park, the volcanic neck of Ship Rock in New Mexico and the caldera of Crater Lake in Oregon. The students are reviewing the other terms from this unit and will be testing on the information this week.

### Ms. Wood's LAL Class:

The class was surprised at the climax of our novel "The Outsiders". With Dally's death, Pony has to learn to move on and accept what he cannot change. The honors course is using the events of the novel for a cause-and-effect essay with a well-developed thesis statement. Characterization is being studied and applied to the novel with a poster project in the near future.

### Mr. Hansen's LAL Class:

Students have continued their writing projects this week in class. All students have worked hard brainstorming a classically told tale, but have added a new spin to the writing by retelling the familiar tale from a new point of view. Many students have noticed just how much can change with a simple twist on who is telling you the story! Students took their first drafts, which are typically 'rough' and unpolished, and have done peer edits. In this process, all students give their work to a classmate and, with the help of a handout with guidelines on where to focus, have had their work assessed by their peers. All work has gone through this process twice, resulting in many opportunities for students to manipulate their work and maximize their story's potential. Final drafts of the story are to be typed in class this coming Tuesday. Students have begun a new Wordly Wise Lesson, with the new set of vocabulary words bringing on new forms of practice to commit each to memory. Finally, in preparation for our new class novel *The Kite Rider*, students have read a short story and done a bit of researching into the time frame of the story. The novel is the tale of a young Chinese boy living in the Song Dynasty of ancient China. As the work is historical fiction, students have studied this genre of writing, as well as character types often found in the work. All students then read "The Flying Machine" by Ray Bradbury. Bradbury, often a writer of sci-fi, depicts the short tale of a man creating new possibilities through flight in ancient China, and the often perilous consequences that may arise when overstepping your boundaries. The story leads directly to a study of the time period, all prior to beginning the novel next week.

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

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

7th grade Algebra students will be graphing linear equations and graphing equations using intercepts. Pre-Algebra will be working on Prime Factorization of two or more numbers and finding the Greatest Common Factor of two or more numbers.

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

Pre-Algebra students are solving variable equations involving addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Students are able to identify and apply the inverse operations in order to isolate the variable. Students are then using their solution to check their work through substitution. Students are then able to write and solve equations that model real-life situations.

Algebra students are calculating the perimeter and area of figures given their ordered pair only or by plotting them in the coordinate plane. Students are graphing linear functions by recognizing the slope and y-intercept of a linear equation. In addition, students are also able to solve for the x- and y-intercepts and use these ordered pair to plot a linear function in the coordinate plane.

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

We are in a holding pattern as the classes continue on their former units for one more week as we wait for the end of the sophomores in drivers ed. The 9th grade will continue to work on fitness, we have finished the actual

testing aspect of the unit but we have been giving retakes and continued to work on cardiovascular endurance. As for the 7th and 8th grade we have been working on soccer and will be playing our championship game next Tuesday to complete the unit.

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

In the short week, leading into Thanksgiving, Mr. Engelberger's 7th and 8th grade Phys. Ed classes will be concluding their Ultimate Football unit. Game play requires speed, agility, quickness and teamwork. When we return from break, PE classes will begin a new Volleyball unit, starting with skills before game play.

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

Ms. Jones' Physical Education classes did not meet last week so they continued in their Soccer unit. Each student is working on their defensive strategies along with offensive plays to try and keep the ball away from the "soccer players" in class. These students are challenging the students that have not played soccer before.

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

8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Students finished presentations, and then we reviewed for 1<sup>st</sup> MP Assessment. Test is 11/18

7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Students were stating people's nationalities, and then we reviewed for 1<sup>st</sup> MP Assessment.

Test is 11/18

**Mr. Diaz' Spanish Class:**

This week the 8th graders are learning new vocabulary in order to describe the summer and winter seasons. They are doing excellent on all assignments. The 7th graders are making a cultural connection between Spanish and the names of many places in the US that have Spanish names. They are also reading about the social aspect of certain ethnic groups and their influence in our culture. They seem to be understanding and enjoying the readings.

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

Students in Mrs. Acevedo's 7th grade Spanish class continue to review and practice Chapter 2 vocabulary and the verb "ser" (to be). Students are also learning how to apply the grammatical rules of forming plural nouns, adjectives and articles in Spanish.



**BOONTON MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC NEWS**  
November 18, 2011

**FALL SPORTS**

All Fall Sports' uniforms and equipment must be returned to team coaches to complete the season. Please be sure to have all items returned so no fines will be charged.

**WINTER SPORTS**

Middle School Boys and Girls Basketball practices have begun. Girls will practice from 3:00 to 4:30 PM and Boys will practice from 4:30 to 6:00 PM. All physical paperwork must be in to the nurse and athletes must be cleared to play in order to participate in the tryouts. Don't Delay!

The Boys will play their first game on December 1<sup>st</sup> against Lincoln Park MS. The game will be played at home at 4:00 PM at John Hill School.

The Girls will play their first game on Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> against Bloomingdale MS. They will also play at home at John Hill School at 4:00 PM.

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 will have our schedule 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

Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> - Early Dismissal

Nov. 24 - 25 - Schools Closed