

BOONTON MIDDLE SCHOOL Weekly Update  
November 4, 2011

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

This week, in Mr. O'Dell's Social Studies class, the students were introduced to the second round of major battles of the Civil War. These battles included the Confederate dominated Battle of Chancellorsville and Fredericksburg, as well as the most important battle of the Civil War, The Battle of Gettysburg in July, 1863. The students were also briefed on the Gettysburg Address and its importance, as well as the conclusion of the Civil War, notably the Union Victory at Appomattox court house. Activities included following a Battle-Sheet Timeline, as well as rewriting the Gettysburg Address in their own words.

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

Ms. Comer: This week the 7th grade social studies classes complete the unit on the physical features of the planet and began the next unit on North America. The students worked with physical maps of North America to located places by reading points of latitude and longitude. They also worked on creating their own maps of the territories to use as a reference throughout the year.

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

Ms. Jamiolkowski: Students concluded their unit on Matter this week. They presented their "Adopt-An-Element" projects on Monday. This allowed for students to get an up close look at the periodic chart and the unique properties of each element. The advertisement part of each student's project will be pieced together to form their very own 7th grade periodic chart that will be displayed in the classroom.

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

Mr. Nosal's class is beginning their unit on volcanoes. The students are looking at what causes volcanoes and the different types of volcanoes that exist on our planet. We are also working on a lab that plots where most of the volcanoes on Earth are located. The students then looked at the ring of fire and discussed how plate movement directly relates to the formation of these volcanoes.

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

This week, students will prepare for their quarterly assessment by completing review activities that cover topics discussed over the marking period. Students will take the multiple choice section of the quarterly exam on Tuesday and the open-ended section of the exam on Wednesday. A study guide was sent home last week for students to review topics that will be on the exam.

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

Language Arts class has had a week full of creativity. Students have recently been given a writing assignment to take a classic tale, be it a fable, nursery rhyme, or popular animated movie or book, and to retell the tale in their own words from the perspective of a different narrator. Everyone knows the story of Humpty Dumpty, but why do we all picture a big egg when we think of the ill-fated Dumpty? It could be believed that at one point someone imagined the 'pieces' being from an egg. As a class we read a short composition about Joshua Jones, a fictional 'king's men' trying to receive the education to put Humpty back together. The new perspective allowed students to see a template, from which they began the writing process to compose their own work. Students began by prewriting, or free writing, a potential list of stories and narrators they are knowledgeable about through their youth. Students then narrowed down their lists to a single story from a single point of view. After composing a first draft, students conducted a peer review, reading each other's stories and editing with constructive criticism. Stories will be completed over the next few weeks. The week ended with two assessments, one to complete Lesson 4 of Wordly Wise and the second to assess general knowledge throughout the first marking period.

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

Language Arts  
Grade 7 & 8

Both classes have begun working on their character trait projects for their novels: Freak the Mighty and The Outsiders. For the project the students had to choose various character traits that their character portrayed. They also had to support the trait with a quote from the book. This week's writing prompt was a persuasive prompt that dealt with the students having to write a letter discussing why music and art should not be cut from the curriculum.

Math

Grade 7

This week the class concentrated on all operations involving decimals including estimation. The also took a quiz on the 25 math vocabulary words.

Grade 8

This class was introduced to adding and subtracting integers as well as completed a quiz on the math vocabulary.

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

7th grade math students have been working on solving multi-step equations with the variable on one side and solving with the variable on both sides.

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

Student identified the multiplicative identity of integers and fractions. Students solved division problems involving fractions by multiplying by the multiplicative identity. Students reviewed previously learned concepts in preparation of their chapter test and their end of the marking period test.

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

It's been another good week for the teams in our fitness unit. The 9th graders are working hard and will have completed 4 of their 5 physical fitness tests by the end of the week. The only thing left will be the dreaded mile run so get ready. As for 7th and 8th grade we are continuing on with the soccer unit and will have a champion crowned for each class by the end of next week. Keep up the good work.

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

This week in Middle School (7th and 8th grade) Health, Mr. Engelberger's class has continued to analyze and discuss the existence of school bullying and its extreme consequences. Working in groups and with the use of Internet and newspapers, class members have spent time researching articles and stories that paint the picture of severe bullying in school, as well as cyber bullying and physical abuse and threats. Students will examine the consequences of bullies in school and provide their own thoughts and feelings on the topic. All 7th and 8th graders will write about what they see as a proper punishment for such cases and work to set up a reasonable and appropriate discipline system to counter any school bullying.

In the gym, Mr. Engelberger's classes will continue their unit of Ultimate Football. This sport adds a different dimension to typical football as players can move and throw the ball in every direction. Students will test their speed, quickness and agility through game play as they move with and without the ball. During games, students' fitness levels will be tested as they will be constantly moving through the period of play. Ultimate Football will give student athletes the chance to play with sportsmanship and use teamwork to succeed.

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

Ms. Jones' Physical Education classes are extending their soccer unit until Friday, November 11th. Each student will be able to demonstrate each soccer skill learned over the past three weeks. Their soccer unit test will be November 7th. The next unit we will be starting is New Games. They will be introduced to new activities and twists on old games.

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

7<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Students have been learning about the Day of the Dead Holiday

8<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Students have been presenting their Day of Dead Projects and transcribing preferences

**Mr. Diaz' Spanish Class:**

This week the 7th grade students have been learning to tell what time it is and at what time things take place. They designed a schedule of their courses in Spanish and at what time they have each class. The 8th graders have been focusing on cultural readings about nutrition and famous Hispanic doctors. They completed an overall assessment that evaluated their comprehension from the lectures.

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

Students in Mrs. Acevedo's 7th grade Spanish class continue to practice vocabulary related to school subjects or courses as well as the verb "ser" (to be) both in its singular and plural forms.

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

Weekly update

This week Madame von Essen's 8th graders have been working very hard in preparation for their upcoming chapter test. You might even catch them making extra credit note cards to study from!

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

7th graders had a class discussion on Pop Art and have begun seeking their subjects. 8th graders were introduced to pointillism and are seeking and drafting their subjects.

**Accomplishments:**

Please join me in welcoming our newest Baby Bomber, Delaney Rose Nosal, and congratulating the proud parents Mr. Pete and Vicky Nosal.



**BOONTON MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC NEWS  
October 4, 2011**

The Fall season has come to a close. Please be certain all uniforms and equipment have been turned in to your coaches so no fines will be assessed.

**Upcoming Events**

November 7, 8, and 9 - BMS Parent/Teacher Conferences

November 10 and 11 - Schools Closed for Teacher Convention