



7 RED November NEWSLETTER



Dear 7 Red families,

Our November Newsletter contains course updates, team happenings, and upcoming events on 7 Red and at Oak Middle School.

SCIENCE- Brianna Mondello

It's hard to believe that we are approaching the end of the first trimester! In Science, we are in the midst of our Organelle Wars Unit. Students have been assigned Organelles to campaign for in our upcoming 'President of the Cell Election'. The students have created campaign posters to hang throughout the hallways at OMS and posted in their class discussion boards on Schoology in favor of their organelle and 'smearing' the other organelles. We have just begun planning the campaign advertisement videos that will be modeled after professional looking campaign advertisements. Then it's election time...stay tuned to find out who is elected as the new 'President of the Cell' on 7 Red.

Following Organelle Wars we will conclude the semester with the Human Body Unit. In this unit, we will focus on three body systems.

In December, our second trimester will begin with Genetics and DNA, then we will end with Evolution. In our Genetics Unit, we will be doing a writing project that applies research skills developed throughout the first trimester and beginning of the second trimester. The Oak Media Specialist will co-teach lessons that demonstrate how to create and organize research notes using various tools and Apps. The second trimester moves at a quicker pace than the first trimester and the curriculum is more rigorous, involving some math in our Genetics unit. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch! bmondello@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

MATH- Lindsay Ventura

As the end of the first trimester is quickly approaching, we are wrapping up our Accentuate the Negative unit. Students have been working hard trying to solve problems involving both positive and negative numbers. It is not an easy concept as each operation has a different rule but students have been very diligent about making sure that they understand how to work through these problems.

After Veterans Day weekend, we will begin to prepare for our next unit titled Stretching and Shrinking. This unit has students focusing on scale factor, similar figures and proportional reasoning. As students work through this unit, they will also be working on an engaging project where they get to create their own business with a blueprint and all! This work will then tie into the following unit called Comparing & Scaling which involves unit rate, commission, sales taxes, discounts and more. I will send out more details on this project as it gets closer but I am very excited for students to learn how they can be

entrepreneurs of their business and to get a sense of the work that goes into designing and running an actual business. More information coming soon!

SOCIAL STUDIES- Carey Davis

The last half of October was quite a busy month in Geography. After wrapping up our World Hunger unit, we moved into South America. During this time, students learned not only the countries and capitals of South America, but they also became very knowledgeable about how people adapt to living in the Andes Mountains. Students also learned of the impact climate change is having on those who live in the Central Andes mountain region. Within the last two weeks of the month, we had two separate assessments - one on the Andes and one on mapping of the continent. Many students did very well on their mapping assessment of South America. If they haven't shared their grade with you, please be sure to ask! Your children are now well versed on the countries and capitals of the continent! Now that we're into November, we'll wrap up South America with a unit on the Amazon Rainforest, and then we'll cross the pond into Africa. We'll hopefully wrap up the first trimester by learning the countries and capitals of Western Africa, and understanding how people adapt to living in the desert environment of the Sahara.

Lastly, the first Oak MS Current Events meet took place on October 27th. Of the six 7 Red students that competed, we had two who placed in the top 10! A big shout out goes to Tim Marshal for tying for 1st place, scoring 24 out of 30 possible points!! An additional shout out goes to Ernie Zhang for tying for 2nd place, scoring 23 out of 30 possible points!! Way to go, guys! Nishita Roy just missed out on being in the Top 10, with a score of 20. Six students who participated all tied with 21 points, rounding out the Top 10. A BIG thank you to those who participated during this first meet: Tim Marshall, Ernie Zhang, Suraj Swamy, Nishita Roy, Mourya Mukka, and Anthony Biscotti. The next meet will be in January.

As always, if you have any questions regarding Geography, please do not hesitate to reach out!
cdavis@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

LANGUAGE ARTS- Kyle Wells

Students have been learning about different persuasion techniques in writing, advertising, and speaking. They will bring this knowledge together to craft their own strong arguments for a persuasive editorial on a topic of their choice. We have begun the research process already. Students are reading articles on their issues and pulling out evidence to support their own position. They will begin drafting their essays soon, and students will receive feedback from peers and teacher before the final product is due. This unit will wrap up before Thanksgiving, and we will begin the next unit on Short Stories when we return from the holiday break.

ESSENTIALS ELA- Yusra Khan

This month, we will be working on the Persuasive Writing Essay. For this assignment, students will choose a side regarding the pros and cons of social media. Given resources that support both perspectives, students will find evidence to support their claims. This will be a step by step process that will break down all the parts of a persuasive essay. Students will learn about what makes a strong argument and how to respectfully share their opinions with others.

ESSENTIALS MATH- Anne Murphy

The Essential Skills Math students are wrapping up the Accentuate the Negative unit on integers. They have learned the rules for solving problems involving positive and negative numbers. We will be introducing the Stretching and Shrinking unit to the students next week. This unit explores similar figures to help students recognize proportional relationships. Students will solve real-life and mathematical problems involving scale drawings of geometric figures and compute the actual lengths and areas from scale drawings.

The Learning Skills class will continue to review concepts taught in the core classes. The students will practice skills learned in their classes and revise their work as they progress towards the standards. The students use their time to improve their writing skills, practice math skills and to study for upcoming assessments.

Team Happenings

Conference Day (Held on November 8th, 2016)

Thank you to all of the 7 Red families for your support in helping our students be the most successful 7th graders they can be. If there are any follow up questions regarding conferences, please contact your child's homeroom teacher via email (contact information below). There were many parents that reached out requesting conferences that we were unable to meet with, we would be happy to send you an update on your child's progress, or if you feel that a conference is needed we can schedule an appointment to meet with you. Thanks again for the team effort in helping all students thrive.

Bullying Awareness Month

With October being National Bullying Prevention month, the 7 Red team participated in several Bullying awareness activities that centered around the topic of bullying, harassment, and teasing. These activities included:

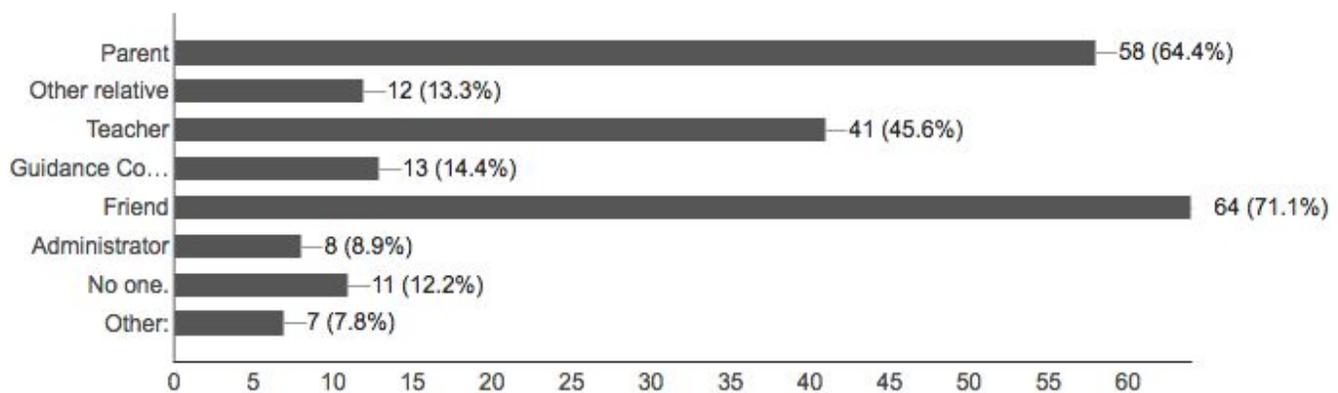
- 1). Listening to a presentation by Dr. McCoy from Bridgewater State University, who compared bullying to relational aggression.
- 2). Participating in several team surveys that provided the teachers with insight into current bullying and harassment situations, as well as feedback and suggestions to prevent further bullying and/or harassment from happening at school.
- 3). Making "DONUT BULLY" signs (in the shape of donuts .. do not bully = donut bully! :)) around the school to create awareness.
- 4). Researching kindness quotes, which the team teachers will soon be posting on a daily basis.

During the first Bullying Awareness workshop on 7 Red, students responded to a survey given by the team teachers. In the survey, we asked students about bullying education, prevention, where it happens most often, and whom they feel the most comfortable going to with a bullying / harassment incident or information to share in general. The results were very encouraging, and we wanted to share the amazing feedback with the 7 Red families as well. When asked, "Who do you feel most comfortable going to about a bullying / picking-on issue that you've experienced or witnessed?", more than half of the students (64%) said that they felt comfortable telling a parent. Only 12%, or 11 students, felt they currently had no one to go to regarding bullying or harassment. While this is a small number, it is

concerning to us. We highly encourage all parents to have a conversation around the issue of teasing, harassment, and bullying. We want all students to feel as if they have someone to turn to in a time of need. *Please see the results in the figure below. (Note, 91 students participated, and the students were able to check as many boxes that applied to them. Other options included teachers, other relatives, friends, administrators, and counselors.)

Who do you feel most comfortable going to about a bullying / picking-on issue that you've experienced or witnessed?

(90 responses)



We also discovered that a good portion of the current teasing and bullying students are witnessing and/or experiencing is happening outside of the school - mainly online and on the bus. Again, we encourage you to have open conversations about how things have been going on the bus (if he or she rides it), as well as what your son or daughter may be seeing or reading online. If your child has an Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, or other social media account, it might be worth "friending" them or viewing their account time to time to see what conversations are being had, what things are being said, etc.

As noted previously, after responding to the survey, students worked individually or in small groups to brainstorm and document quotes that they felt would draw attention to the subject matter. The students decorated cutout donuts, that read "Donut Bully". These Donuts were hung around the school to spread awareness and promote discussion among other students.

At the end of the month, guest speaker, Dr. Meghan McCoy, from the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center (MARC) at Bridgewater State University, presented an engaging lesson that helped students understand the difference between *actual bullying* and *relational aggression*. Dr. McCoy also shared some strategies with students that could be used to protect themselves and their peers from bullying incidents.

Lastly, using the data from the first survey, the teachers put together a follow-up survey to get student input on how the teachers and administration could actively prevent bullying from happening at school.

We are in the process of gathering curricular material from MARC to organize a team wide bullying workshop that addresses student concerns and educates students on their role in promoting kindness. We look forward to sharing 7 Red Team progress with families in our next newsletter!

"Donut Bully" signs



Sincerely,

The 7 Red Team Teachers

Brianna Mondello, Carey Davis, Lindsay Ventura, Kyle Wells, Anne Murphy and Yusra Khan

Upcoming events at OMS

November 10: Veterans Day Assembly

November 11: Veterans Day- No School

November 2-16: Magazine Drive PTO Fundraiser

November 18 & 19: @ 7:00 pm in the OMS Auditorium, Oak Fall Play, *"And a Child Shall Lead"*

December 20- **7 Red DISPLAY DAY** (parents invited to visit from 1:15-2:15 pm)

PARENT COMMUNICATION

We strive to communicate with parents regularly. This year, we have several ways that you can stay in touch.

1. EMAIL We all check our email throughout the day. If you have a question or concern or if you want to make us aware of something that involves your child, please email your child's homeroom teacher. If you want to email the full team you can also use the team email address at the bottom. Keep in mind that the email will go to all 5 of us, foreign language teachers and allied arts teachers.
2. SCHOOLGY is our main portal for communication with students and parents. We post homework here daily as well as documents and directions needed for class. Some, but not all, assignments are

turned in using Schoology. This will give you some idea of when your student may be missing work, but is not a full picture. If work completion is an issue, we will be sure to contact you.

3. Follow us on INSTAGRAM – @7redoms

4. Like us on FACEBOOK – 7 Red OMS

5. Follow us on SNAPCHAT - oms7red Homework, Reminders and photos from team activities will be posted here regularly

Team Email Contacts:

Language Arts: kwells@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

Math: lventura@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

Geography: cdavis@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

Science: bmondello@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

Special Ed. & Essentials Math: amurphy@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

Essentials ELA: ykhan@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

7 Red Team: 7red@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

To get connected to Schoology as a Parent:

**Do not go to Schoology.com!*

Go to this link: <http://schools.shrewsburyma.gov/it/schoology.cfm>

On the left click on “**Schoology Parent Instructions**”.

Once you are in you can look at any group or course your child belongs to.

We also suggest you go into the **Power School Parent Portal** (same link as above) to be sure all of your information (email, phone numbers, address) are up to date. It is important to keep your email address up to date to continue to get our newsletters and updates.

7 Red Team Photos

Science - ORGANELLE WARS- Campaign Posters & Slogans

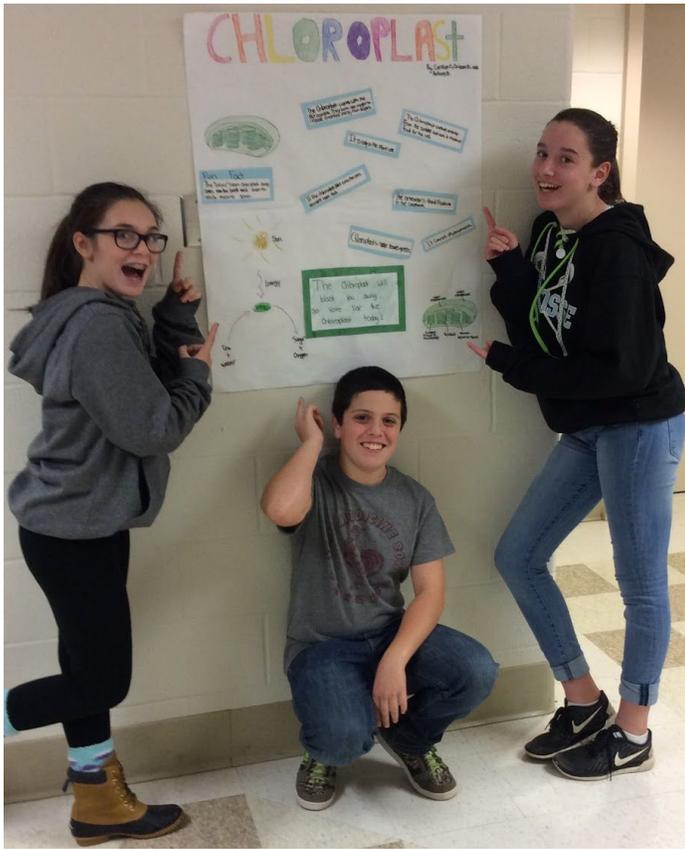
"We need a CELL WALL to make America Great Again"

Aishi G, Ryan L, Dakota J, Dante D - Group E



"The Chloroplast will blast you away, so vote for CHLOROPLAST today!"

Gianna B, Anthony B, Caroline E - Group A



"Who do you call?...CYTOPLASM!"

Danny R, Charlotte H - Group A



"America runs on MITOCHONDRIA"

Jake C, Ava M, Connor M - Group A



Social Studies- Presidential Debate

Team Trump Supporters in Group T

Patrick H, Taylor B, Tim M



A few from the Undecided Side - Group T

Logan S, Zach K, Emily S, Angelina D



Solo Johnson and solo Stein Supporters - Group T

Alex K, Ben B



Team Clinton - Group T

Eliza G, Emma K, Nick F, Aariz I, Gianni C, Collin G



Wifi- Microscopes in Science - Viewing Pond Water Organisms - Group M

Kya D, Malorie B



Suraj S



Alex M

