

7-Blue Team Newsletter

April Issue 2016



Important Dates to Remember!

April 11-15 SPIRIT WEEK

- Monday- Boston Strong
- Tuesday- Team Theme
- Wednesday- Blue and Gold
- Thursday- Colors for a Cause
- Friday- Team Color

April 18-22 SPRING BREAK

- May 2 PARCC Math
- May 5 PARCC Math
- May 17 PARCC ELA
- May 26 PARCC ELA

May 30 MEMORIAL DAY

June 21 Last day of School
(per 3 snow make-up days)

Current Events Top Scores

Nate Zhang	7 Blue	23
Saanvi Sood	7 Blue	23
Alyssa Guo	7 Blue	21
Amar Kapoor	7 Blue	21
...	7 White	21

Handwritten notes: } go 7 Blue! "!"

SPIRIT WEEK

- Each team has a different schedule for PARCC Testing so please follow our 7-Blue schedule.
- Lunch will change each day that 7-Blue is PARCC Testing. Be prepared to go to lunch earlier at 11:45a.m. (instead of our regular schedule of 12:35p.m.) on May 2, 5, 17, and 26th.
- Students will need to be prepared by downloading the TestNav app. They will also need to bring a pencil with them and their earbuds on these days.



PARCC INFORMATION

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- Math Testing Times: Unit 1- 80 minutes, Unit 2- 80 minutes, Unit 3- 80 minutes.
- ELA Testing Times: Unit 1- 110 minutes, Unit 2- 110 minutes, Unit 3a- 90 minutes, Unit 3b- 110 minutes.
- Parents, please do your best to plan accordingly. We appreciate your best efforts to get your children to school these days on time to alleviate the need for make-ups at the end of the year!

St. Patrick's Day Best Dressed!

Izabella Sokolowska, Owen Aherne, Dan Stameris, and Holly Hruskoci





In ELA with Ms. Lawlor-

I have been wonderfully welcomed back onto 7-blue from my maternity leave. Ms. Wells did an incredible job in my absence and she is missed. Ms. Wells worked on novel studies with students reading both *Afrika* and *So Far from the Bamboo Grove*. My first week back, we dove right into some creative writing where students learned how to incorporate "voice" into their pieces. They submitted a "This I Believe" Essay that shares their personal belief statements on life. So far, they are very positive and uplifting!

Now, we are beginning a 6-week long research unit. Please remember that we have been building upon our research skills all year and students will now be assessed on a new standard in the third term: "Applies Research Skills".

In Science with Ms. DePalo-

Spring is here and we will be going outside some days for Science. Looking ahead our studies will focus on Evolution, Ecology and Classification of the living organisms on our Earth. Presently we are reviewing the evidence for evolution. We will concentrate on the evolution of the horse and whale in this study, but will broaden out into other organisms like wolves. We will compare Natural Selection with Artificial Selection, work with Cladograms and with DNA evidence. Our letters to Governor Baker have been sent and I am excited to hear back from him! My students were about 70% for support of the GMO labeling bill and 30% against support of the bill. Students worked hard on their research into GMO's and their possible place in our future. Thank you for having great conversations at home on the topic! Thank you for sending me such wonderful children to teach. We have only about twelve more weeks before they all turn into eighth graders!

Student Shout-out!

7-Blue Students: Anusha Chatterjee, Saanvi Sood, and Shalini Ambady

Over the past six months, a few of our team members competed in Destination Imagination. DI is a competition that stretches the creativity of competitors by giving sets of challenges that requires the mind to fully function to their best ability. These girls decided to take on the challenge of helping the community, by holding an event. They held a luncheon at Abby's House, a homeless shelter for women and children. They competed in the regional tournament in March, and placed 1st. They then moved on to States, and won 2nd. They now have the opportunity to compete in Global Finals in Knoxville, Tennessee.



In Math with Ms. Lockwood-

In math class, we have just finished our study of linear relationships in our Moving Straight Ahead unit. We are now working in our probability unit, What Do You Expect? This should be a fun unit for our students, as much of the learning will be project based and work is very "hands on." We started with a "Games of Chance" day where students saw that many situations where it appears you have an even chance to win are actually quite unfair to the player. We've now started working in groups to create our own "carnival games" where the students will calculate and manipulate the probability of winning, collecting data and comparing the theoretical to the experiential.

Units coming up will focus on two and three-dimensional geometry. In our Shapes and Designs unit, students will analyze properties that make certain two dimensional shapes special and useful. They will identify, analyze and measure shapes and visual patterns. In our Filling and Wrapping unit, our focus will be on finding the volume and surface area of three-dimensional prisms. Students will also find and use the area and circumference of circles, as well as extend their thinking about similarity and scale factors. If you would like an overview of the topics from these units, please visit the 7 Blue Math class in Schoology and download the family letters for each unit.

Probability Fun!

7-Blue Students in Math Class



In Social Studies with Ms. Binder-

We wrapped up our unit on Africa learning about Micro Enterprise and how it empowers women (and people in general) and improves the lives of families and communities. I hope your student shared his/her MicroEnterprise project which highlights an idea for a business and a loan request to Kiva. We also learned a little about the wonderful music and dance Africans enjoy. We watched The Danger of a Single Story... a TED TALK cautionary tale of Stereotyping.

This serves as a great segue to our next unit on the Middle East where we are learning about cultures, religions and resources. We will also learn about some of the political and economic challenges and conflicts AND the impact of those challenges GLOBALLY.

We will create some opportunities for Project Based Learning to give students the opportunity to explore topics of great interest to them. The goal will be to instill interest in answering questions like "Is it true that..." to promote understanding and dispel stereotypes.

From there, we will travel to Central and Eastern Asia and end the year with a short study of Europe.

We continue to look for ways to incorporate current events and global connections in our learning to make it relevant to our own lives. As always, we welcome our 7 Blue families to share connections with us with visits or artifacts!

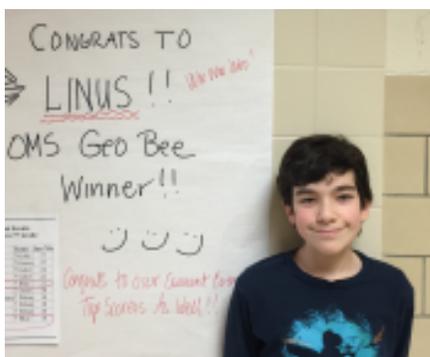
Good Luck to Linus

Adler at the State

Geo Bee

Championship

Friday April 1st!



Greeters for Chinese

Welcome Breakfast!

Students: Nathan Zhang and Kartik Donepudi **Not Pictured:** Holly Hruskoci, Jordan Jarvi, Brooke Sipowicz, Morgan Smith



In Essential Skills with Ms. Orlando-

In Math, we recently wrapped up our “Moving Straight Ahead” unit where students worked to find the slope of a line, interpreted graphs and tables, and correlated data. We are now heading into our “What Do You Expect” unit, where we are discussing the probability of events. We will be participating in and designing many activities to determine the likelihood of certain events happening, such as carnival games, and March Madness winnings. The unit will culminate with the students creating their own projects with multiple outcomes, and presenting them to other students. We are excited to try some more project based learning in this unit, and in more units going forward!

In ELA, we recently completed our Choice Novel unit, where students read novels in small groups and wrote about how the main characters evolved throughout the story. They had to use evidence from the text and their own reasoning to support their claims, which is what we have been working to improve all year! We are now heading into our Research unit, where students will learn and utilize research strategies through iPad apps, credible web sources, and printed text. The students will be researching endangered species, why species become threatened, and will ultimately choose one animal that is currently on the endangered species list to write a five paragraph composition about. This unit will wrap up right before April break.

Calculating the probability of making free throws outside!

**Students: Ariana Snell and
Anibal Campos Ramos**

