

7-BLUE TEAM NEWSLETTER

May 11, 2016
May/ June Issue

Dates to Remember...

May 2	PARCC- Math PM
May 3	Half Day
May 5	PARCC- Math AM/PM
May 11	Math Placement/ ELA Benchmark
May 17	PARCC- ELA AM/PM
May 26	PARCC- ELA AM/PM
May 30	Memorial Day/ Off
June 3	Team Talent Show
June 15	Field Day
June 17	7 th Grade Talent Show
June 21	Last Day of School

Coming Up...

Sign up in Schoology to “show off your greatness” in the team talent show taking place Friday June 3rd.



The winners from our team talent show will move on to the **final round with all 7th grade teams on Friday June 17th!**



Message from your Teachers:

The teachers on 7-blue were so impressed by your character, work ethic, and enthusiasm this year. We will be sad to see you move to 8th grade, but know that you will do incredibly next year! Don't hesitate to visit us next year or check in with us if you need anything.



This is our last 7-Blue Newsletter for the year. **Enjoy summer and see you next school year!**

Save the date: June 17th, 2016

**Announcing:
The Grade 7 OMS Talent Show!**

Who: All teams will send approx. two acts to the grade-wide show.
See your team teachers for info on when you will debut your acts to your team

Where: Auditorium

Why: Let's close out the year with a celebration of the things you're proud of

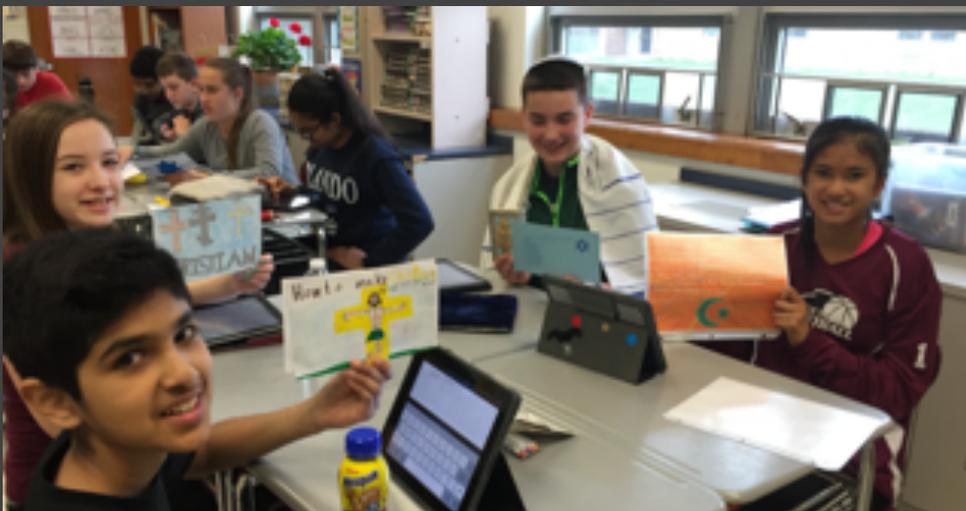
PICCOLLAGE

In Social Studies with Ms. Binder

As part of our unit on the Middle East 7 Blue students have taught each other about the Three Big Religions that trace their roots to the Middle East. Everyone agreed that teaching is a challenging profession! We are now starting a “Persuasive Project” where students will determine and defend whether or not countries in the United States and Europe should accept Syrian refugees. We will focus on Humanitarian, Economic and National Security factors as we make our case. We will then turn our attention to Southern and Eastern Asia where students will explore population patterns, government policies that address population needs, and how populations and related policies affect lives. We will end the year with short project based learning opportunities in Europe where students will research topics of interest to them.



Sharing what we've learned!



In Science with Ms. DePalo

In science we have just finished our survey of Evolution. To finish the year we will be studying our Classification system. Ask your children why kings play cards on fat green stools? We will discuss Aristotle and Carolus Linnaeus in regards to the binomial nomenclature system we use today. The six kingdoms we place all living organisms in will be touched upon with specific examples for each kingdom. Students will use dichotomous keys to classify and develop their own systems. At the end of the year we will be studying Ecology and Conservation. Did you know that the reintroduced wolves of Yellowstone National Park actually changed the flow of the river that runs through it? We will be working with food chains and webs and the consequences of changes in the environment. There will be a good focus on the relationships that organisms have with each other. I appreciate that your children are working smart all the way to the end of the year. Have a wonderful grade eight experience!

Special Presenters in Science!



Special thanks to:

Nathan and Toyesh. I am so proud of how serious and committed you both were to taking on a self-guided project. You are both true leaders among your class! Thank you for your time, effort, research, and sharing your knowledge with the whole team.

Sincerely, Mrs. DePalo

In Math with Ms. Lockwood

In math class we have wrapped up our "What Do You Expect?" unit on probability. The carnival games were a big success and it was great to see the students really internalize the concepts as they manipulated their odds, changed their biases and decided which games they would pay to play themselves depending on their chance of winning. An unexpected, but future valuable life lesson - stay out of casinos if you want to keep your money!!

Next week, on Wednesday, May 11th, the students will take their placement test for 8th grade math. This week we completed all three sections of the PARCC test in mathematics, and they've also finished their second cumulative exam.

With all that out of the way, we're free to start our last substantive units of the year "Shapes and Designs" and "Filling and Wrapping". These units review the basic concepts in geometry - polygons, angles, perimeter and area - followed by expanded studies about volume and surface area for three dimensional figures. While Spring fever is completely understandable, productive engagement is important to set our students up for success in math next year so we'll be working hard to keep focus during our last 30 days together.

I feel so fortunate to have inherited 7 Blue math and then been able to stay with these wonderful students to finish our school year. They have been so patient and supportive as I've made my way through the curriculum for the first time and I will always keep them in a special place as "my first kids". I hope the Summer allows for fun and relaxation for all, and I look forward to visits from many 8th grade friends next year.

Carnival Games



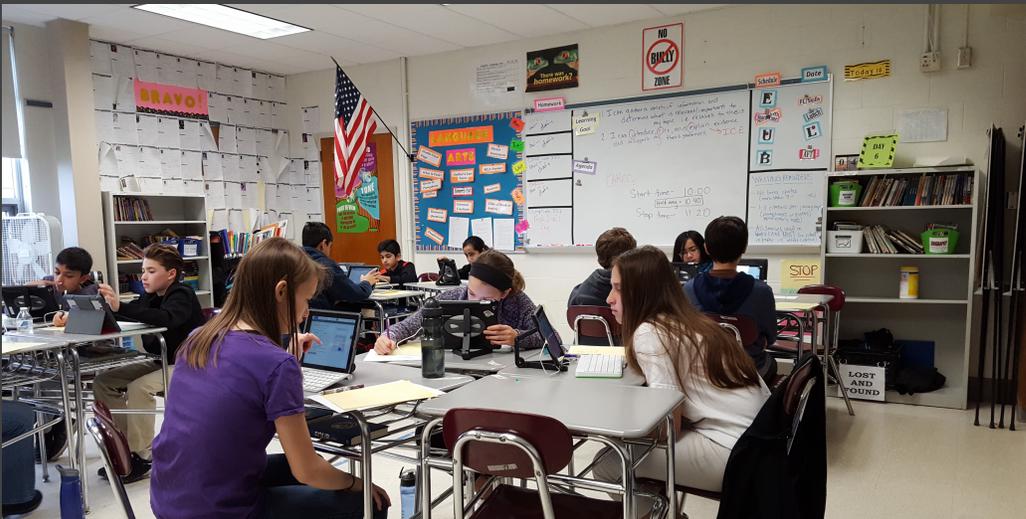
In ELA with Ms. Lawlor

Students have done wonderful work in our research unit where they studied important people throughout history that have made a positive impact on society and culture by overcoming struggles and challenges. We've called these people "punks"! Students have discovered that these influential people have not been afraid to fail or take risks, and that in learning from their mistakes they have achieved unimaginable success.

It hasn't been easy finding sources, determining which facts are most important, citing evidence, and proving our argument, but we have all gained valuable skills that will set us up for success in eighth grade. In term 3, there is an added standard on the report card: "applies research skills" that we've all been progressing through in hopes of reaching mastery. This year students have really impressed me with their ability to provide evidence and cite it correctly in an essay. **Don't forget the FINAL PAPER IS DUE FRIDAY MAY 13th!**

As we finish out the year, we will be reading and analyzing a plethora of fairytales (both popular and obscure). We will compare and contrast how authors from different cultures and backgrounds can have an impact on the literature of their time period. We will examine Disney version of fairytales and evaluate their Germanic origins from the Grimm Brothers. This has always been a really fun and interesting unit to end the year on and I hope all of our students can find something that peaks their interests! Best of luck next year and I am always available if students need extra help with their writing skills.

PARCC TESTING



In Essential Skills with Ms. Orlando

Essential ELA: We have recently wrapped up our research unit where students used new research skills, exploring data bases, print sources, and professional journals to find information about particular endangered species. Students not only completed in depth research, but also created choice projects of comic books, children's books, essays, and blogs displaying all of their invaluable research on their topics. We are moving towards Fairy Tales and will be reinforcing active reading strategies for the remainder of the school year.

Essential Math: For the month of April, students investigated probability and created their own carnival projects to display their understanding of probability to not only the 7 Blue team, but to 8 Blue as well. After finishing our exciting probability unit, we are heading into Geometry. We are working towards filling and wrapping where we will be experts on angles, nets, surface area, volume, and circumference. We are also beginning a month long IXL challenge against other teams at OMS! Please encourage your child to log on and practice the assigned math topics during free time so that we can earn our pizza party on 7 Blue!

As many of you know, I will be heading out for maternity leave in Mid May and will be out for the remainder of the school year. I have been so privileged to teach and get to know your children this year and wish you a wonderful summer vacation!

At the Carnival!

