

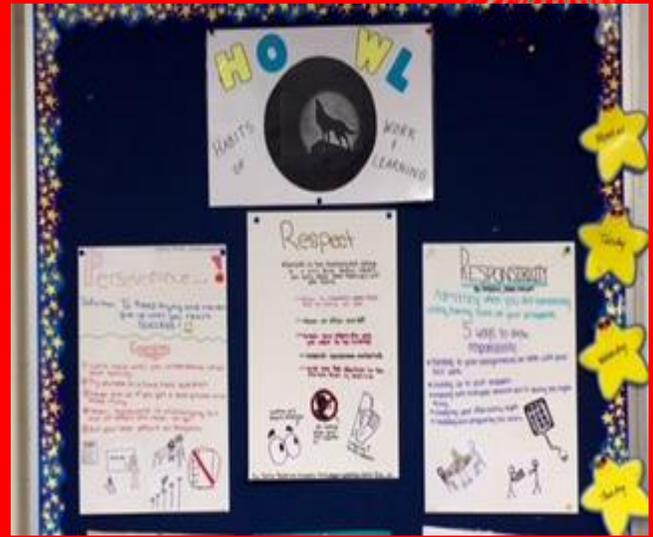
DECEMBER 2016

7-BLUE NEWSLETTER

TEAM EMAIL - 7BLUE@SHREWSBURY.K12.MA.US

IMPORTANT DATES

- ❑ Dec. 23- Chamber Repertory Theatre Presents the Short Story Plays
- ❑ Dec. 26-Jan. 2 Winter Break
- ❑ Jan. 16- No School/ Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- ❑ Jan. 24- Cycle 3 Ends



H.O.W.L.S-HABITS OF WORK AND LEARNING

- We are working on a new team philosophy that emphasizes the 3 ideals: respect, responsibility, and perseverance.

REMINDERS:

- Please see the attached letter from the Shrewsbury Public Library concerning student behavior after school.
- Festive Holiday Sweater Dress-Up Day on team next Friday December 23 (Remember you still need to wear appropriate attire that follows the school dress code listed in the student handbook).



SCIENCE WITH MS. DEPALO

In science we have finished our study of the functions of the organelles. Your children came up with wonderful analogies comparing the function of the organelles in a cell to some other system. Ask them to share these projects with you. We are presently working on Photosynthesis and Cell Respiration. We will have had the exam, ORQ and project done by the Holiday Break. I am looking forward to seeing what creative ideas your children come up with on this project. When we come back from vacation we will be studying Cell Division- Mitosis and Meiosis. Have a wonderful Holiday break!!!
--Mrs. DePalo

WORLD GEO WITH MS. BINDER

This month our focus has been on studying the land use conflicts in the Amazon Rainforest. Students learned how the Rainforest benefits people around the globe and how conflicts among groups about how to use the Rainforest (sustainability vs economics) are a serious real life global issue and has led to concerns about its future. Students have also completed individual research projects on topics of their choice to learn more about an aspect of the Amazon Rainforest of interest to them. Topics range from Endangered Animals to Ecotourism to Climate Change. Students are presenting their findings in Infographics. Make sure you ask to see them. They are so creative, professional and informative!

On December 13 we took time to celebrate St. Lucia Day in class as one of our goals is to learn about Traditions and Customs of people around the world. Ask your child to share what they learned! Encourage your child to share a custom too! Next Unit- Economics and off to AFRICA!!



CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon dioxide traps heat radiating from the ground making the whole planet warm up. Without the water trees give off, there will be less water and clouds and without clouds to block the heat soil will become dust and burn in to this crust.

"10 MILLION SPECIES OF PLANTS, ANIMALS AND INSECTS LIVE IN THE TROPICAL RAINFOREST"

If we lose one, we will lose the species that depend on it, and so on until one day little than ants, cockroaches, weeds and humans remain!

Causes of Deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest

- 45% Agriculture
- 35% Logging
- 15% Mining
- 5% Pasture
- 2% Cattle Ranching
- 2% Other

"1/5 OF THE WORLD'S FRESH WATER SUPPLY IS IN THE AMAZON BASIN"

"Trees play a key role in the local water cycle by helping to keep a balance between the water on land and water in the atmosphere."

"3 FOOTBALL FIELDS EVERY MINUTE IS THE AMOUNT OF FOREST LOST EVERY MINUTE"

every minute our oxygen and medicine is being cut from us because of groups such as farmers and miners in the Amazon rainforest.

"15% OF ALL GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS ARE THE RESULT OF DEFORESTATION"

Not only are the trees that would stop the green house gases being cut down but while they are being cut down it causes even more green house gases.

"LUNGS OF THE EARTH"

The Amazon holds more than 20% of the worlds oxygen but won't anymore after deforestation. Once land is cut down for ranchers experts estimate it will take the land and our oxygen to grow back to how it was before.

HOW DEFORESTATION DESTROYS GLOBALIZATION

The worlds amount of oxygen

20%
80%

THE RAINFOREST PHARMACY

"The U.S. National Cancer Institute has identified 3,000 plants that are active against cancer cells. 70% of these plants are found in the rainforest." Clearly the rainforest not only gives us oxygen to help fight sicknesses, it gives us medicine to destroy them.

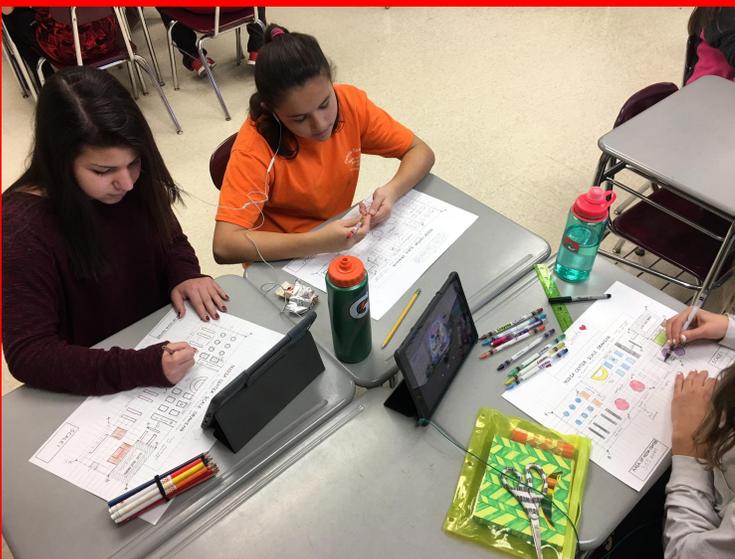
MATH WITH Ms. LOCKWOOD

7 Blue Math students worked hard to finish the first half of our “Proportional Reasoning” unit. They used their understanding of scale factors to analyze a blueprint of our Media Center and make their own creative additions. We have completed a Unit Test on this material and will spend the pre-break work on a “Dream Space” project that uses our learned skills to draft an accurate plan for a shop, entertainment space, restaurant, etc.

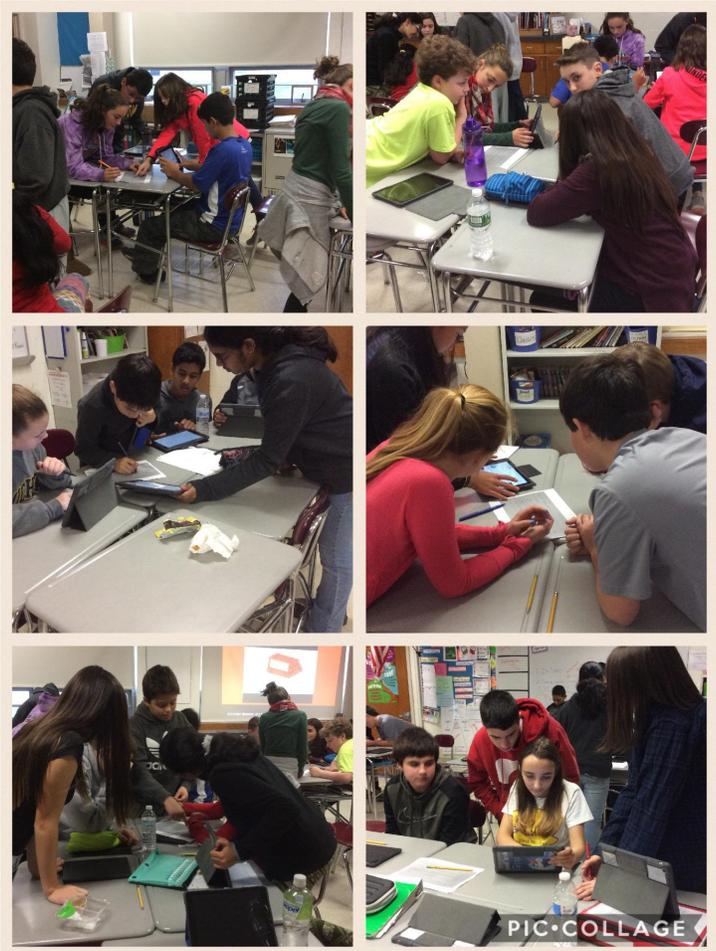
The students also completed our first “Cumulative Skills” Assessment, which will be one of several evaluation points for next year’s honors placements.

After break we’ll be using proportional skills in real-life scenarios to calculate discounts, sale prices, raises, commissions and discounts.

Later in January we’ll be “Moving Straight Ahead” exploring linear functions and working with graphs.



ENGLISH WITH MS. LAWLOTZ



PERSUASIVE UNIT

In ELA, we finished up our persuasive unit. We created strong arguments and presented them in both writing and speaking. We ended the unit with a final essay and test.

SHORT STORY UNIT

We have spent the last few weeks reading and analyzing short stories for literary elements (Suspense, Mood, Foreshadowing) and plot elements (Exposition, Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action, and Resolution).

These stories will be performed for the entire 7th grade on December 23rd. We will have two final assessments: a written-response the week before break and a multiple-choice unit test the week after break.

AFRICA NOVEL UNIT

After break, we will begin reading a class novel called *The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind* by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer. It's a book about the perseverance and resourcefulness of a young boy living in a small village in Malawi.

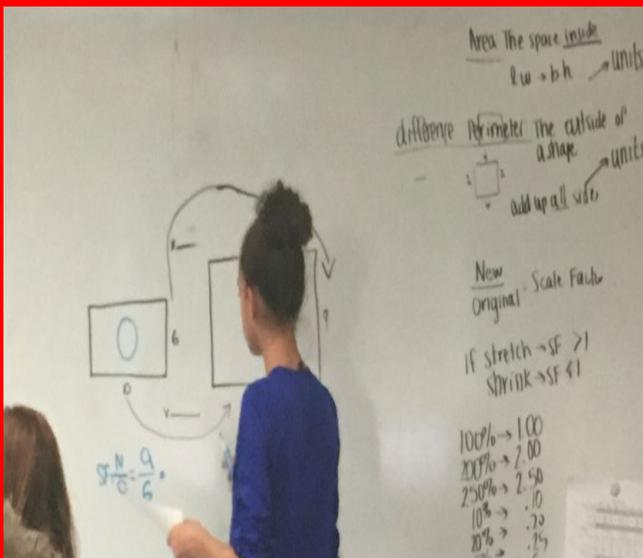
ESSENTIALS WITH MRS. ORLANDO

MATH

THESE PAST FEW WEEKS, WE HAVE WRAPPED UP OUR ATN UNIT, AND ARE NOW WORKING ON STRETCHING AND SHRINKING SHAPES. WE HAVE WORKED TO MEASURE, AND FIND THE SCALE FACTOR OF SHAPES, WHILE COMPARING SIMILAR SHAPES. WE ARE IN THE MIDST OF A BLUEPRINT PROJECT, WHERE STUDENTS ARE CREATING THEIR OWN SMALL BUSINESS AND SCALING THE ITEMS THAT ARE INSIDE.

ELA

LEADING UP TO WINTER BREAK, WE HAVE BEEN READING SHORT STORIES AND ANALYZING THE ELEMENTS OF FICTION. WE HAVE COMPARED AND CONTRASTED FILM AND MOVIE VERSIONS OF THE TELL TALE HEART AND THE MONKEY'S PAW.





PIC·COLLAGE

December 8, 2016

Dear Parents, Grandparents and Guardians of Middle School Students,

I am writing to ask your help in addressing some challenges we are having at the public library on "high-traffic" days for teens, when 100 or more middle schoolers might visit the library at one time. During early release days from school, Friday afternoons or pre-holiday afternoons, when large numbers of students walk from the Middle Schools to the public library, we are experiencing difficulty managing the behavior of this large group. While most students are well behaved, we are finding that some are choosing to disrespect the facility, act rudely to staff and other customers or generally act inappropriately. We have also had broken furniture and seen fighting and strong profanity towards other teens and adults. As you can imagine, these small numbers impact other students and adult patrons who wish to use the library.

We wish to assure that that all library users (including teens) have a safe and enjoyable experience at the library. We certainly welcome teens to the library and want them to enjoy their beautiful new teen room, but we have found that some students lack the maturity to understand that the library is meant for all, and that respectful and considerate behavior is necessary.

To address these challenges we have recently implemented a sign-in system for the teen room, which asks students to read the behavior guidelines, sign their name and provide a contact number for parents or guardians. This sign-in is currently on an honor system. If the honor system approach fails, we will be requiring middle schoolers to have their library card on them, and may eventually move to a parental consent form, which parents must sign in advance of sending their middle schools child to the library unchaperoned. We will also be calling parents when behavior presents a problem, asking you to pick up your child.

As a parent, grandparent or guardian, we are seeking your help in making the teen room and the library a suitable and safe space for all.

- Assess your child's maturity level, and determine if and how long they can be at the library independently. Please don't hesitate to ask our Teen Librarian or me to share our experience with your child.**
- Stop by the library during one of these high traffic days and check in on your child.**
 - Please speak to your child, and remind them that shoving, pushing, fighting, swearing, throwing items, speaking disrespectfully to staff or others, or hitting others is not allowed in the library.**
- Confirm that their library card registration information in our system includes your contact information.**
 - Make sure your child has a library card with them. Replacement cards can be obtained at the main desk. There is normally a \$2.00 replacement charge, but through January we are replacing the cards for free.**

We now have one of the finest teen rooms in the libraries of Massachusetts. Working together, we can make the experience your child has here equally exceptional.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Sincerely,

Ellen M. Dolan, Library Director