

October  
2015

## 7-Blue Team Newsletter

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### Coming Up This Month...

#### In Social Studies,

We have had a great start to the year in World Geography. We reviewed basic mapping skills and learned how to use thematic maps. The students made great country poems to demonstrate their understanding of how to use thematic maps and a few students received awards for showing both an in-depth understanding of their country and exemplary effort.

We have spent the last few weeks defining globalization, why it exists and how it affects people (both good and bad) around the world. We will use the Globalization theme as the backbone to all our studies throughout the year as a way to help kids make strong real life connections.

This week students are creating Global Issues projects using Imovie and other mediums to educate each other about a specific global issue and what we, as Global Citizens, can do to help solve global issues and work on behalf of Human Rights. This will be a great lead in to our preparation for our **HEIFER FIELD TRIP at Overlook Farm on OCTOBER 28! Please consider CHAPERONING this fabulous experience with our students!**

This month we will also begin our unit on South America where we will complete an in depth study of the Amazon Rainforest.

We would love to have any family or friends who have first hand knowledge or experience about any of the places we will be studying come and visit our classes throughout the year. Real life connections are always the best way for kids to learn. I would love to hear from you. Please email me at [kbinder@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us](mailto:kbinder@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us).

#### In English,

Students learned a lot about their classmates by writing their first essay of the year with the "About the Author" assignment. Students have also been examining and identifying different text features and structures within our Non-Fiction Unit. They have been annotating and reviewing activating reading strategies like "unravel" to better understand fiction and nonfiction texts. Students have read biographies in our "Read For Real" books and magazine articles from the media center. We will be wrapping up this unit with a final assessment on Monday 10/5.

Our next unit of study will be on Argument and Persuasion. Students will work throughout the month of October to develop their research skills in order to find all available means of persuasion on a given topic. The unit will wrap up in early November with a final Persuasive Essay. Please help students work through all steps of the writing process, as this will often be a homework assignment to ensure that students submit their best work at the conclusion of the unit. As a reminder, homework is posted in Schoology on the Lang. Arts Course Page. Click the Homework Link in "Materials".

## In Math,

This year in math, we're off to a great start! Our students have been working hard and making class fun and interesting. We are currently working in the unit titled, "Accentuate the Negative." In this unit, students build on their prior experiences in working with integers, positive and negative whole numbers. We will be making further connections to students' own personal experiences in dealing with signed numbers, such as with temperature readings, sports scores, and game situations.

Our focus will be helping students to understand and develop skills working with rational numbers, which include positive and negative whole numbers, fractions, and decimals. Students will investigate and use the order of operations, the commutative property, and the distributive property to solve problems. These problems will be presented in real world contexts and students will be asked to interpret their solutions in these contexts.

## In Essentials,

In Math we are working on wrapping up our Fraction Unit, and working with all four operations and proper and improper fractions. We are moving into our first unit, Accentuate the Negative, where the students will work hands on with positive and negative integers. We will work on not only solving expressions, but also with reading and writing word problems.

In Language Arts we are working on our Non-Fiction Unit where we are learning and reviewing strategies to better understand what we read. We are also working through Writer's Workshop, where students are using evidence from the text to write five paragraph responses. We will be moving into our Persuasive Unit in a few weeks, and will be using our power of persuasion to convince readers of our opinion. Watch out parents, we are going to develop our argument skills while backing up our claims with evidence, claims, and reasoning!

## In Science,

In science we have had a great start. Thank you for sending us such wonderful children. The microscope unit went well and everyone had success learning how to focus the microscopes. We looked at icky stingers, hairy bug legs, beautiful bug wings and scary bug eyes to name just a few. We also looked at prepared slides of a variety of cells and microscopic organisms. We will bring the microscopes back throughout the year.

The unit we are in now is called Living, Non-living, and Dead. We just made a study guide for the Characteristics of Living Organisms and the Needs. We will next study Stanley Miller, Francisco Redi and Louis Pasteur. Once we get to the end of this study we will take a Benchmark Open Response Question, and a formal test on the material. I also give a vocabulary test for each unit. The next unit is Cells and Organelles.

Please have your child show you my Study Stack Vocabulary link. There are fun games, study guides and flash cards that are already made for the words. Your children should also show you my shared folder and Schoology Classroom.





Favorite Student  
Quotes



Locker Decorations



Award Winners for  
"Country" Poems in S.S.



Birthday Wall

