

7 White Newsletter Cycle 3 Happy New Year!!!! 2018

Greetings/ General Information

Yearbook update: Note that the price is \$28.00 if ordered BEFORE February 2. Payment MUST be a check or money order - no cash. Checks should be made out to Oak Middle School. Students need to bring in the filled out form with the check.
From Feb 5-9. orders are \$35. No orders will be accepted after that Friday.

Student Voice will be selling carnations for \$1.50. Tickets will be sold at lunch each day starting Monday, February 5th. Students who receive carnations will exchange the ticket for the carnation at lunch on Wednesday February 14th! All money raised is used to purchase items for Oak Middle School.

Upcoming Activities/Important Dates:

February 2018:

February 6th - Half Day for Students

2/19 - Presidents Day - No School

2/20~ 2/23- No School February Vacation Week

Grade 7 2018 Mcas Dates:

April 24th ELA Session 1

April 25th ELA Session 2

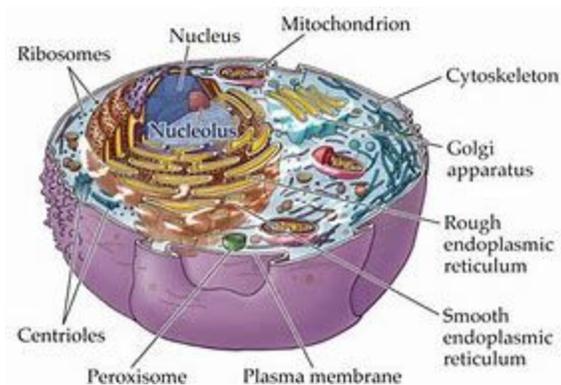
May 4th Math Session 1

May 7th Math Session 2

Academics

*** Each teacher grades homework slightly different. If you have any concerns or questions about homework please feel free to email the teacher.**

Science - Ms. Scibelli:



We started Trimester Two with the Cell Unit. Our project was called "Sell Your Organelle". Each student randomly selected an organelle. They were asked to research information about their organelle using their ELA research skills. They used Noodle Tools to organize their

research into notecards and created a Work Cited page. Then they created an Advertisement to share with their classmates to “Sell” their organelle. Some students created additional props or wore outfits that added some creativity for their “Sales Meeting”. I was so impressed with the presentations and props!

We spent three days working on a Cell Theory Lab where we learned about the five scientists who were involved in developing the Cell Theory. Students spent time using microscopes to view the same types of specimens that these scientists studied and also spent time drawing Plate Drawing to show observations in their lab reports. We then spent a short time on the Photosynthesis and Cellular Respiration mini unit.

We are currently in the Human Body Unit. The students are building Human Body Models from trash/ recycled/ reused materials. They were asked to gather up materials around the house. The goal was to create a human body system or organ that is made of nothing purchased from a store. We have had lots of fun building our models in class for the past three days. I can't wait to see the presentations this week!

All Trimester 2 are in your child's gradebook in the Schoology Science Course. Ask your child to share this information with you on their iPad. Thank you for all of your support as we begin the second half of the school year.

English Language Arts - Mr. Amdur:

Happy 2018 everyone! We have just wrapped up our short story unit and engaged in our second escape room of the year. While this one was much more difficult I loved watching every student on team, troubleshoot, collaborate and persevere in order to complete the challenges. The students did a wonderful job with their final comparative writing piece in which they discussed the mood and suspense created in Ray Bradbury's *All Summer in a Day*. I am truly impressed with the growth and work ethic the students showed over this very difficult unit. Moving forward we will be jumping into our first novel of the year, the historical non-fiction text *So Far From The Bamboo Grove*, by Yoko Kawashima Watkins. The book will explore the experiences of Yoko as she and her family brave the terrors of World War II and attempt to reunite in their homeland of Japan. I love teaching this book and have no doubt the students will enjoy their experience with it.

One non-ELA related item. Yearbook sales are currently going on. Up until Friday February 2nd yearbooks can be purchased for \$28. The following week prices increase to \$35, and after that the sale is over. If you have any questions please feel free to email me.

As always thank you for your continued support,
Matt Amdur

World Geography - Ms. McGrath:

Hi! I was finally able to get the 7 White Who Am I! Cultural Recipe Book 2017 scanned and into Schoology. You can check out the recipe book on your child's iPad or click on the PDFs below. Please excuse any typos on the recipes themselves. This was our first attempt at assembling a recipe book and it is far from perfect. Note that the recipe book is broken up into categories. Bon appetit!

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1u9ODPCnvO__6-w1-WRJ9TWNr4ix10Wc_?usp=sharing

Students have been having lots of fun in world geography! We just finished up Latin America by participating in a trial that focused on which groups living and/or utilizing the resources in the Amazon Rainforest are sustainably developing it and should be allowed to remain there. The students did an excellent job researching their specific Amazon group and arguing their case. The team voted and decided that the Environmentalists/Ecotourism and Rubber Tappers/Nut Gatherers should remain in the rainforest. Check out the cool display below!



Now we are moving on to the continent of Africa! Students have already begun learning the location of the 54 countries and are now working on creating a tour of the physical features of Africa using the Google Earth Tour Builder website. Ask your child to show you her/his tour! After we have learned about the political and physical geography, students will be introduced to the history which includes the Scramble for Africa. This unit can be a bit emotional as we investigate some of the effects of colonialism on the African countries. Our focus then moves to what is happening in Africa today. Students will participate in a project based learning (PBL) activity that will include researching, organizing, and presenting current issues from a specific region in Africa. More about this in the next newsletter!

Math - Miss. Boyajian:

Hello! I cannot believe we are already halfway through the school year! Time flies when you are having fun :)

We finished our blueprint project before December break, and have been working on proportional reasoning and relationships since. The students learned how to calculate tip, tax, and discounts through real-life scenarios. Currently, we are working on exploring where ratios are used outside the classroom. For example, the smoothie mix has 3 cups of orange juice and 4 cups of blueberries. If you want to use 9 cups of orange juice, how many cups of blueberries do I need? This unit is one of my favorites and the students are having a lot of fun, too. The unit test will be given before February break.

I just want to remind you that students need to complete 5 skill builders each week on www.assistments.org. The folders are listed by week, for example, 1/29 - 2/2, and the assignments will be here. All are due Friday evening of that week. I am asking that you please ask your son/daughter at the end of each week to show you they completed all assignments. The link with the week's dates will be **bolded** if the assignments are incomplete. Furthermore, nightly homework is on www.mathx1forschool.com. In order for the assignment to be completed and counted for full credit, students need a score of 80% or higher. Please ask your son/daughter to show you if they completed the assignment.

Thank you for your continued support. I am looking forward to a great second half of the year!



English as a Second Language (ESL) - Ms. Beaton:

Our students have finished their annual ACCESS for ELLs testing. Hurray! This test is mandated by the state of Massachusetts and measures students' progress in English proficiency in reading, writing, listening and speaking. All of this testing is now done on their iPads. Results will be sent home at the end of May.

We remembered Dr. Martin Luther King with the holiday (day off) on January 15th. In our ESL class we have been reading about Dr. King and other important figures from the Civil Rights Movement including Rosa Parks and Ruby Bridges. We continue to reflect on the impact that individuals can have and how people of all ages can affect change.

As we move into February we will continue with studying academic vocabulary, grammar and reading comprehension and writing. Please encourage your children to bring any questions to our class. English is buzzing in their ears all day and some expressions are difficult to understand. I am always happy to answer questions about what students hear and don't understand.

Special Education - Ms. Millett:

I cannot believe that we are halfway through the year! The Learning Skills Class has been working hard to create study guides as well as procedural guides for all four content classes. We have been using the iPad, mathixl and noredink.com, to help build our math and grammar skills. This past cycle we did a neat activity looking at nutrition labels and using proportions to find out how many packets of sugar are in various food items! Here is a link if you want to find out! <http://threeacts.mrmeyer.com/sugarpackets/>

Please continue to check in with your son/daughter, ask them to show you schoology and some of our learning apps!