

## **Erdkinder Newsletter** **August/ September 2011**

### **Notes from Michael**

---

**7<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts:** Students are currently reading *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens* by Sean Covey. Students will be working on questions and projects each week that will lead them toward a better understanding of themselves and how to organize their lives. Make sure that you ask them what they are learning ☺ I have uploaded the books that we are going to read for the rest of the year to the website. Please be sure have those books by the month specified.

**8<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts:** Students are discussing *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. Discussion groups revolve around setting, plot and character development. There is a project due on September 21 and it is on the website. I have uploaded the books that we are going to read for the rest of the year to the website. Please be sure have those books by the month specified.

**7<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies:** This year we will be covering World Cultures in Social Studies. Students have begun looking at the geography of the world in five themes. They will understand how these themes guide Geographers to study the land and the people living on it. We will also explore Earth's physical geography and human effects on the Earth. Mid-September, students will begin learning about the cultures, land, and governments in Southwest Asia, North Africa, and Central Asia. In addition, students are required to continue observing the news for current events in the world that relate to class discussion. Each student needs 1 current event each quarter with a response to each article. Current events could relate to topics covered through geography or world issues.

**8<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies:** This year we will be covering U.S. History through Reconstruction. Students are familiarizing themselves with the different cultures settling in North America and how they would lead to the settlement of the 13 colonies. As we complete our review with group projects, we will move on to life in the 13 colonies and the causes and effects of the French and Indian War. In addition, students are required to continue observing the news for current events in the world that relate to class discussion. Each student needs 1 current event each quarter with a response to each article. Current events need to relate to the United States.

### **Notes from Laura**

---

**Math 7:** We are working on similar figures, exploring angle comparisons and scale factor. We have started introducing proportions and will be using them throughout the year. Also, if you haven't heard the word ALEKS from your child, ask them what it is and remind them about the weekly requirement regarding ALEKS.

**Math 8:** We started with a review of linear equations and just moved into non-linear equations. One of our goals for the year is to have students identify the types of graphs that certain equations will create without having to graph them. Remember to remind your child about their weekly ALEKS requirement.

**Algebra:** We are starting with all review and “easy things” – order of operations and beginning word problems. We just finished up chapter 1, “From Patterns to Algebra” and have begun chapter 2, “Operation in Algebra.” The first few chapters will go quickly and consist of primarily review of computation skills. Remember to remind your child about their weekly ALEKS requirement.

**Science 7:** We’ve started with the scientific method and lab safety rules, including a practice lab involving pennies. This year, our focus will be all three science areas, beginning with Earth Science. Currently, students are learning about the Earth’s surface. We are learning about the topography of land, descriptions of various landforms, how to read various maps, and about Earth’s four spheres. Students will periodically complete hands-on labs.

**Science 8:** We began with a review of the basics—the scientific method and lab safety rules. This year, our focus will be Physical and Life Science with a chapter or two on Earth Science thrown in. Our first lab involves a study of density and our first topic is states of matter. It is our goal to have about one day a week devoted to labs. Lab write-ups will be due the following week on that same day of the week. The other days will be devoted to adventures in note-taking and lectures.

Etc.

---

**Dress Code:**

Students should be neat and well groomed. Children are expected to wear clothing that is clean, in good condition, modest and appropriate for school and weather conditions. This means that students cannot wear spaghetti strap shirts, low cut shirts, midriff-revealing shirts, short shorts, flip flops, or sagging pants.

In winter, boots, hats and gloves should be worn for outdoor play. Labeling of students’ garments is helpful in cases of lost articles. Lost and found articles are taken to the rack outside of the library and may be claimed there.

Students are not permitted to wear hats in the building. T-shirts with logos or writing must be inoffensive (may not depict violence, profanity, or sexual innuendo).

**Homework Expectations:**

Your child can expect to complete up to 1½ hours of homework a night. Some nights may be more while other nights will be less. In Language Arts, students will spend approximately 3-4 weeks on a class novel at a time. In addition, journals are still an expectation. Projects assigned in Language Arts and Social Studies will have specific due dates given 1-2 weeks in advance and occasionally may culminate into one project. They will have a Math assignment every night. It is recommended that long-term projects be broken up into smaller sections, instead of trying to complete the entire assignment in one night. If your child requires more time for homework, please let the teachers know. Something to keep in mind, seventh graders often become more efficient at doing their homework after about 5 or 6 weeks.

**Protecting God's Children:**

The Board of Trustees has decided that parents who have the responsibility of driving or caring for our students are required to be certified by the Protecting God's Children program. As of January 1, 2008, if you are willing to drive for a field trip, you will need this certification along with a BCI check. Watch notices and fliers for more information about how to register for this class. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

**Cell Phones:** Cell phones are not permitted to be powered on school property at all. If your child is caught using a cell phone on school property, it will be taken away and only returned to a parent at a teacher's convenience.

**Fundraising:**

Fundraising events throughout the year cannot be successful without your help. A list is posted on the outside of the Erdkinder door with the variety of opportunities to help during the year. Please review the activities and let us know if you are available to help out if there is still an opening. Also, students have signed up for Gallery Hop so make sure the date they have signed up for is on your calendar. Following is a list of our adult volunteer needs. Please consider signing up for an activity that still has an open blank. Contact Laura ([lfrey@cdeducation.org](mailto:lfrey@cdeducation.org)) if you are able and willing to help!

**Gallery Hop Babysitting **\*\*still need 1 volunteer\*\*** (Saturdays, 5:45PM to 9:45PM)**

October 1, 2011	<u>COVERED</u>	_____
November 5, 2011	_____	_____
February 4, 2012	<u>COVERED</u>	_____
March 3, 2012	<u>COVERED</u>	_____

**Dances (Fridays, 6:30PM to 10:00PM)**

October	, 2011 (Day TBD) <b>**still need 5 volunteers**</b>	
	<u>COVERED</u>	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____

February \_\_\_\_\_, 2012 (Day TBD) **\*\*still need 3 volunteers\*\***

<u>COVERED</u>	_____
<u>COVERED</u>	_____
<u>COVERED</u>	_____

April \_\_\_\_\_, 2012 (Day TBD) **\*\*still need 4 volunteers\*\***

<u>COVERED</u>	_____
<u>COVERED</u>	_____
_____	_____

## Winterfest

December 4, 2011

Information will be sent home – all parents needed!!

## Spaghetti Dinner

January 31, 2012 (Tuesday evening-more details closer to event)

This event is completely covered. Thank you!

## Car Wash / Bake Sale **\*\*still need 2 volunteers\*\***

May 11, 2012 (Friday from 12:00PM to 5:00PM)

COVERED \_\_\_\_\_

COVERED \_\_\_\_\_

## Erdkinder Website:

Don't forget to checkout [erdkinder.net](http://erdkinder.net)! This website is new this year and we hope to continue making improvements as the year progresses. Please feel free to send comments and suggestions to Laura!

**Erdkinder**

Wishlist

Lotion Tissues

Sphere Chair

Home About Us News Calendar Homework Links

**WELCOME TO ERDKINDER!**

**Academic Challenges**

**Science QoW #2**

List the scientific classification (Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species) of our class pet.

**Math Problem #2**

Be sure to complete ALL of the problems found at this link. Number your answers according to the problems (#1 being the problem on top):  
<https://mathcounts.org/potw>