

Erdkinder Newsletter

October 2011

Notes from Michael

7th grade Language Arts: Students have been exploring how effective they are emotionally, socially, and academically using *7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*. Students will write their first 5-paragraph essay to reflect on what they have learned. We will then explore Theme, Style and Characterization in *The Graveyard Book*. Students will also write their own short ghost story.

8th grade Language Arts: Students are exploring the structure of the Mystery genre through *A Study in Scarlet*. In class, we have discussed the mystery genre and we will explore point of view, characterization, setting and plot in Conan Doyle's work. The students will continue with their vocabulary workbooks and will expand their vocabulary and grammar knowledge.

7th grade Social Studies: The students have spent some time looking at Western Religions in order to prepare them for their current discussions about North Africa, Southwest Asia and Central Asia. We will be discussing current conflicts and issues in these regions including: Israel- Palestine, Arab Spring, Iraq, Iran, and Afghanistan.

8th Grade Social Studies: Students are finishing up learning about the early settlements in North America. We will soon be moving into the causes and consequences of the French and Indian War and the causes of the American Revolution. Students will have a small project on colonial life.

Power of the Pen: Power of the Pen is a statewide creative writing competition open to all 7th and 8th grade students. We will begin our practice for POP on Monday 10/10 from 3pm to 4pm and continue each Monday thereafter until the district competition in January. Our team will be chosen in December. Students who participate in practice have the opportunity to be exempt from a Journal response. Students who compete in competition have the opportunity to win awards, scholarships and even have their work published!

Notes from Laura

Math 7: The students are currently working on a unit covering ratios, proportions, and percents. ALEKS hours will be due on October 28th. It is expected that your student will have completed at least 10 hours; anything over that will be considered extra credit.

Math 8: The students are nearly finished with their unit covering the Pythagorean Theorem. In fact, the test is currently scheduled for next Friday, October 14th. We will be moving into a study of exponential relationships next. Ten hours of ALEKS are due on October 28th. Extra credit is available for extra hours.

Algebra: We just wrapped up chapter 4, proportional reasoning & statistics, and will be moving into a study of linear functions next. Word problems are going to be a constant in this class and they will become more and more competent with them as time goes on. Remind them to keep up with ALEKS; this is an excellent way to get more practice. The quarter ends October 28th.

Science 7: Students have learned about the hydrological (water) cycle and freshwater resources. We are now moving into a study of the oceans, particularly in regards to motion in our oceans. Please have your student review their syllabus about organizing their science materials. Their materials should be organized into a folder/binder, but if they are not, now is the time to start locating past homework, quizzes, tests, etc., and get them neatly organized.

Science 8: We are studying atoms and the Periodic Table of Elements. The chapter 3 test is currently scheduled for next Tuesday, October 11th. The Element Advertisement project is due Tuesday, October 11th. Next we will be studying chemical bonds. Please have your student review their syllabus about organizing their science materials. Their materials should be organized into a folder/binder, but if they are not, now is the time to start locating past homework, quizzes, tests, etc., and get them neatly organized.

Etc.

Upcoming Dates:

Power of the Pen Begins	October 10 th
MATHCOUNTS Begins	October 11 th
School Pictures	October 14 th
Terra Nova testing	October 17 th -21 st
Erdkinder Dance	October 21 st
International Children's Day	October 28 th
End of 1 st Quarter	October 28 th
All Saints Day Mass	November 1 st

High School Visits:

8th grade students will have the opportunity to visit high schools that are in their feeder pattern. Students who wish to go to schools outside of their Catholic school "territory" will need to obtain a waiver from their "assigned" school. Please be aware, due to low enrollment, Bishop Ready and DeSales rarely give waivers. Typically, we schedule the private, Catholic schools, and Columbus Public lottery schools if we have a large number of students interested in attending. If you need to visit your local district, please let us know when your student will be out of school and visiting. Please keep in mind students should only visit schools that are an option and not just to go see all of the schools.

Eighth grade students visiting high schools should be dressed appropriately. Most of the schools we visit have a uniform policy. So, our students are expected to wear similar clothes. Boys should wear khakis or other casual pants and a dress shirt and tie. Girls should wear appropriate slacks outfits or skirt outfits. No jeans will be permitted.

In addition, check school websites for open house dates. Some of them begin soon.

CAT Testing:

Achievement tests (really the Terranova) will be given the week of October 17—21st. Our schedule will be testing 8:30-11:30 on Monday through Friday. Attendance is helpful. If at all possible, try to reschedule appointments and help your child arrive on time with a good nights sleep and full breakfast.

International Children’s Day:

Erdkinder helps to celebrate International Children’s Day. There are several opportunities for our students to participate as well as earn community service hours. Some of our students play in the band, some dress up to add to the atmosphere, and some help the younger students on this special day. Some very enterprising people even figure out a way to do all three.

MATHCOUNTS Info:



Mathcounts is a club that is open to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. We are planning to meet on Tuesdays from 3:00-4:00PM in the Erdkinder Room. Our first meeting will be Tuesday, October 11th.

For the past four years, we’ve been ranked as a Silver or Gold Level school. Our 7th and 8th graders can go to the regional Mathcounts Competition in February and our 6th graders compete in online competitions against other 6th graders all over the country.

Our practices consist of a combination of introducing new concepts and skills and practicing with competition venues.

We have a lot of fun solving unusual problems and learning new things about Math. Oh – and there’s also a snack! Hope to see you there!