

PRIME TIME PRIDE
NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 20, 2008

DATES TO REMEMBER

November 11 – Veterans’ Day – Student/Staff Vacation
November 26-28– Thanksgiving Break
December 19 – AR Deadline

CLASS NEWS

Pre-Algebra

Pre-Algebra students have just finished a unit on finding probabilities for independent and dependent events, and learned the differences between theoretical and experimental probabilities. Students finished the chapter by learning to use simulations to investigate experimental probabilities. We will now be introducing the basic algebraic properties needed to solve equations. The Associative, Commutative, and Identity properties of addition and multiplication show how to rewrite expressions. Then students will learn to solve one-step equations by applying inverse operations and the addition and multiplication properties of equality. Students will continue to draw upon these skills throughout their study of pre-algebra.

Integrated Algebra

Integrated Algebra: Integrated algebra students have been solving equations, progressing from one step equations to those that have variables on both sides. They will apply these skills to using formulas and to solving literal equations for one of the variables.

Algebra

Algebra students are ready to expand the skills of the previous chapter, related to solving various kinds of equations, to the solving of inequalities. They will also solve compound inequalities as well as equations and inequalities containing absolute values.

Language Arts

Students are continuing to study vocabulary and spelling every week. Also, students have been writing. We have been working on sentence fluency, organization, and word choice. In early November, students will begin a new writing assignment, “The Last Leaf on the Tree.” The focus will be idea development. We’ll add word choice and conventions as well to produce excellent essays.

Literature

For the rest of October, we will continue short stories. Our focus will be on the methods writers use to develop their characters. In November, students will apply these skills to the novel, *Jason’s Gold*, a story about the Alaskan gold rush of the 1890’s. During the

time it takes to read the book, most work will be completed in class. Students who are absent will need to check out a book to take home. As they read, students will answer comprehension questions, take the AR test, and write an essay on character development.

We visit the library twice a month so that students can check out AR books for independent reading. Please continue to encourage your child to read every night. AR counts as 10% of each student's grade. The deadline for second quarter is Dec. 19.

Social Studies

During the month of October, we discussed the meaning behind "Bleeding Kansas" and the constitutions created during the time of turmoil. Territorial characters and the myth of the Pony Express Rider are among the many stories discussed during class. In November we will be taking a field trip to LeCompton, Kansas to visit the Territorial Capital Museum. We will also be exploring the role Kansas played during the Civil War.

Science

In Earth Science for the rest of October and early November, we are just beginning to "get down and get dirty" with the concepts of the rock cycle. Now that the students are aware of what minerals are, we will be expanding the idea to how rocks are formed and that there is a cycle of rock creation. Although we will be exploring some "hard rock" concepts, be aware that when your child comes home and indicates we may have watched a "hard rock video" in class; it probably was along the lines of how volcanoes produce igneous rocks, which in turn, will erode into material for sedimentary rocks, which can be compressed into metamorphic rocks and possibly back to igneous material - Nature's version of "rock and roll".

As we finish Chapter 4, we will be moving into Chapter 10 to investigate the theory of Plate Tectonics, Chapter 11 to study Earthquakes, and Chapter 12 on Volcanoes. Our studies will be "solid", so we are looking forward to "rock on!" during the next few months.