

PRIME TIME PRIDE NEWSLETTER APRIL 24, 2009

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 20 – Eighth Grade Celebration Barbecue/Dance

May 21 - Worlds of Fun field trip

May 22 - Last day of school

TEAM NEWS

The State Assessments are over! We want to commend the students who worked hard to do their very best. Now, however, spring fever seems to be in full bloom. Please remind your student that school is not yet over, and that it is very important to work through to the end.

Worlds of Fun – Students must be passing all classes to attend this field trip. Unfortunately, the amusement park does not allow us to bring food into the park. Students will need to bring money for lunch and/or drinks, so you might give your student some extra chores to earn the money he or she will need. A permission slip for this field trip will be sent home approximately a week before the trip.

CLASS NEWS

Integrated Algebra classes will end the year studying chapter 7, which examines systems of two linear equations or two linear inequalities. The three methods that students will use to solve these systems are graphing, substitution, and elimination. Students will study real-world situations that can be modeled by systems of linear equations or inequalities. Examples include finding the time or location where two travelers will meet, or finding how many products must be sold in order to make a profit.

Algebra students will close out the year studying polynomials. Students will add, subtract, multiply, and divide polynomials. Next, we will study factoring. Students first learn to factor using the distributive property. Then, they learn to factor trinomials. Finally, they will apply all of their skills to solve quadratic equations.

Language Arts/Writing

The study of vocabulary and spelling will continue for the rest of the year. Students just completed a creative writing assignment called “The Night Visitor.” The focus was on building suspense through word choice and the way they organized their stories. For our last writing assignment of the year, students will be looking at newspapers and how different news articles are written. Then they will write their own newsletter using Microsoft Publisher software.

Literature

Students are reading *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson. They have to pay close attention to pirate dialect and use their best context clue skills as they read. We'll be incorporating a writing assignment during the last week in April.

Students continue to visit the library at least twice a month as a class. All library books will be due May 15, so please encourage your student to fulfill the AR requirement by then if possible. The final AR deadline is May 21, 2006.

Social Studies

During the month of April, we introduced students to basic map skills. Students learned research and presentation skills by reporting on a region or country around the world. In May, we will continue to work on mapping locations and we will learn about more cultures around the world.

Science

"Run, Toto! Run!!"

It's that time of year, again. As we end the month of April, we will do an in-depth study of tornadoes and their effect on life in Kansas and the Midwest. We will look at the motion of air that creates our weather and learn to read and interpret basic weather maps. We will also take time to carefully review the "do's and don'ts" of tornado awareness. We will study some tornado video that will blow the kids away.

After our unit on weather, we will conclude the year with a short investigation of our solar system, with an emphasis on physics, that some may find to be "out of this world".