

**PRIME TIME PRIDE
TRAILBLAZERS
NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 3, 2010**

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 16– Presidents’ Day (no school for students)

March 11 – AR Deadline

March 12- End of quarter

March 15-19– Spring Break

March 23-25 Kansas State Reading Assessment

TEAM NEWS

We’ve reached that point in the year when students begin taking Kansas State Assessments. The Reading Assessment will be administered during the week of March 23 in literature classes. It requires three class periods. Then in April, students will take the Math Assessment.

Please encourage your son or daughter to do his or her best on the assessment. Also, if possible, try not to schedule routine appointments during the testing windows.

CLASS NEWS

Integrated Algebra

Integrated Algebra classes are just beginning a unit on analyzing linear equations. This chapter establishes the essential connection between a linear equation and its graph. We will study the concept of using slope and intercepts to graph equations. We will also learn how to write equations for parallel and perpendicular lines.

Algebra

Algebra classes will soon begin 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.

Language Arts

We will continue with our normal vocabulary and spelling work during the rest of the quarter. We have been stressing prefixes, suffixes and roots in vocabulary as they are tested on the State Reading Assessment. Our latest writing assignment was a movie review which the students seemed to enjoy writing. It was due on Feb. 5. The next week or two will be spent on grammar, and then we’ll begin a new writing project.

Literature

We recently finished reading *The Dog of Pompeii* to coincide with study of volcanoes in science. Last week we began focusing on persuasive selections and the techniques authors use to sway our opinions. Later in the quarter we will turn our focus to nonfiction selections from our book. These include a variety of essays, speeches, and technical reading. We will also be going to the computer lab to do Formative Tests for the state assessment. These tests will show us the students' strengths and weaknesses so that we can adjust instruction accordingly.

March 23 brings the Kansas State Reading Assessment. It requires three consecutive days of testing. Each day students are tested on a different type of reading: narrative, expository, technical, and persuasive.

The AR deadline for third quarter is March 11.

Social Studies

This is our last week of Kansas History. We have enjoyed our journey through the Land of Oz. In February we will begin our geography unit. Student will learn mapping skills and work on group/individual projects.

Science

The students have just begun their research on a specific volcano, earthquake, or some aspect of plate tectonics. Next comes the fun part-they will write a research paper culminating with a presentation on each student's topic. After the reports/presentations we will begin the chapter on geologic time. We will be looking at the processes and conditions necessary for fossil formation and will look at the correlation of fossils to determining rock ages. This will result in discussions as to the extinction theories of the dinosaurs.