February NewsletterGrade 8

Dear Families,

 We are starting reviews this month in preparation for March Testing. Students receive homework every day and it is important you stress its importance with your children.

**Reading**

During the month of February, we will be focusing on reading comprehension by centering our learning on short stories and non-fiction texts. Not only will this help the students understand the purpose of multiple types of texts, but it will also help us to build on our vocabulary skills. We will be reading "The Lottery," "The Most Dangerous Game," and informational texts from Scholastic Scope magazine. To help the students with these skills at home, please make sure they are reading 20 minutes every night and filling out their reading logs. The logs must be signed by a parent or guardian and are due February 28th. Let's hope we don't have too many more snow days!

**Language Arts**

This month in Language Arts we are applying the writing skills we have developed over the past few months and using them in real applications.  Recently we explored some texts regarding the likelihood of Bigfoot's existence and applied critical thinking skills and discussion to synthesize our own conclusions.  This marking period we are spending more time focusing on debating and class discussion.  Students should be using authentic support in their arguments. Students should continue to check ***Powerschool*** to ensure that they are on top of their grade.  The second marking period has closed and we are into the third marking period.  Students will have a variety of homework this month which will include and not be limited to writing prompts, journal entries, free-writes and worksheets.  These assignments will be based on the lessons from class and should be complete the night they are assigned.  A friendly reminder that students need to make positive choices with regards to their behavior and class work.

**Math**

 In math this month, we are reviewing the various orders of operations for algebraic expressions. Students have homework every night and it is important this review work is regularly completed to demonstrate student readiness to move into the next topic.

**Science**

 We have started Chemistry this month in Science. The topic can be confusing if students do not diligently take the notes I provide. There is homework every night which includes either experiment write-ups, reading and lesson reviews, or review worksheets based on the day’s lesson.

**Social Studies**

 This month in social studies we will be focusing on immigration at the turn of the century in the United States. We will focus our learning on why immigrants came to the United States and the idea of the American Dream. We will discuss how many groups faced and continue to face discrimination in hopes of obtaining the American Dream. We will also examine the civil rights movement and its impact on bringing equality to all Americans.  Please make sure that your child has a notebook for Social Studies and is on top of all their notes. This is a big marking period, let’s make sure we do our best to get all of our grades up as high as possible.

Sincerely,

*Miss Watson, Mr. Jones, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Borden, and Mr. Pacific*

**Important Dates in February**

**Heart to Heart Dance Thursday 2/13/14**

**February Vacation and President’s Day 2/14/14-2/18/14**