March Newsletter Grade 8

Dear Families,

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

**Reading**

This month we will be focusing on figures of speech and poetry. We have covered metaphors, similes, and oxymorons and we will be connecting these language concepts to a larger unit on poetry. Be sure to ask your child about these topics. Students will be making connections and comparing the three most common types of poetry: lyric poetry, narrative poetry, and descriptive poetry. Please be sure that you are monitoring your child's reading logs. Logs must be signed by parents and are due at the end of the month. This month's logs are due on Monday, March 31st. Let's hope for some spring weather soon!

Best,

Miss Martin

**Language Arts**

This month in Language Arts we are reviewing our grammar notes and completing our post assessments for the grammar which we have studied this month.  In the next few weeks we will begin a creative writing assignment.  Students should continue to check powerschool to ensure that they are on top of their grade.  The third marking period is moving along and grades are accumulating.  Students have only a few weeks to get our grades right before the close of the 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**

 This month we are still doing Algebra but we have moved on to Two Step Equations and Multi-Step Equations.  We are also working on test taking skills for the Common Core test that the students will be taking at the end of April. Some of these skills include comprehending worded questions, finding mistakes in answers and explaining the reasoning behind mathematical processes. It is not enough for students to be able to answer the question, they need to be able to explain why they are sure that is the correct answer, and why they chose the methods they did to arrive at that answer. Students still receive homework every night, and if they are still not comfortable with the material they can come to Math tutoring during 8th period every day. Please check in with your student to make sure that he/she is understanding the material presented in class and encourage them to seek help from me or their SRBI instructor if they are not already doing so.

**Science**

With the CMT (for Science) out of the way at the start of March, students will begin to concentrate on materials for the beginning of their high-school careers. Our focus this month will be on chemistry and extracting textual evidence from the information students use in science class. Students receive homework every day for science class so please encourage your children to do their best.

**Social Studies**

This month in social studies we will be starting a new unit on the progressive era. Students have gotten their new vocabulary and should be reviewing it with a quiz coming the second week of March. Please make sure that you stress the importance of the third quarter with your child. For some this is a make or break quarter. Make sure that your child has their notebook for notes and classroom work and is up to date. If they are not turning in notebook checks it will be impossible to pass. As always if you have any questions feel free to contact any 8th grade team member.

Sincerely,

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

**Important Dates in March**

**Math Night at Curiale 5:30-7:00 3/11/2014**

**Saint Patrick’s Day Dance 3/14/14**

**Half Day (School Improvement) 3/26/2014**