



Seventh Grade News  
January 2012

Spanish

Mr. Mathelier

During the second quarter students have learned how to conjugate –ar verbs. This has been quite difficult for some of the students, but after a great deal of hard work, they are beginning to master the concept.

Students will continue working on conjugating both regular and irregular verbs. Students have also learned how to tell time in Spanish. Vocabulary development has been and will continue to be an important part of learning Spanish. Therefore, students are encouraged to review vocabulary a few minutes every day to retain old words and reinforce new ones.

Social Studies

Ms. Kabat

Everyone in the country benefits from the United States Constitution and debates still continue about the frameworks of the U.S.

government. In social studies we will complete a unit and project about the creation of the Constitution and how the document affects us today. The projects will be on display in my classroom and saved, as an additional resource, for eighth grade. Students are expected to pass a Constitution test as a graduation requirement.

The next unit, The New Republic, covers the time period 1800-1860. We will learn about the first expansion of the nation and create a linear time collage.

Students have the ability to read their text online and take continuous quizzes and a test after each lesson. Please encourage them to use the resources that are available so that they may feel confident in their continued success.

## Language Arts

Mr. Poremba

Students continued to develop vocabulary and spelling awareness and will continue to do so through the remainder of the year.

Through poetry and fiction, they improved their reading comprehension and written responses. One highlight was *A Christmas Carol*, the timeless holiday classic by Charles Dickens. Students read books and accumulated Accelerated Reader points. The program offers differentiation in goals as students read books within their zones of development to monitor comprehension and improve reading levels.

In the third quarter students will learn about the roots and affixes assigned to seventh grade by the Illinois State Board of Education and a formal study of grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and usage. Besides extended responses to literature, students will compose persuasive essays.

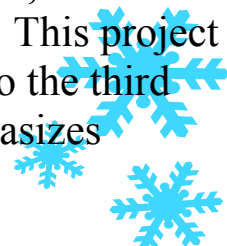
Folk tales, myths, and *The Adventures of Ulysses* will be the literary highlights of the quarter. Of course, students will continue using Accelerated Reader.

## Math

Ms. Kaye

During the second and third quarters, seventh grade regular math students work on studies of fractions, decimals, and percents. Learned concepts are applied to problem solving. They will move on to ratio and proportion applications, probability, and inequalities.

The pre-algebra students are completing work with fractions, equations, inequalities, and proportions. They will begin percents and applications, then linear graphs. Some of the identified Talented and Academically Gifted students also have worked on a “Google Earth” interactive technology project with Mrs. Bernahl, Media Center Director. This project will continue into the third quarter. It emphasizes



planning an international journey and involves retrieving information, including time zones, latitude and longitude, currency rates, and expenses.

Before the winter break, seventh graders learned to write checks, record balances, and find reconciliations with the Itasca Bank and Trust's "My Checking Account" project. In the following months, the remainder of the unit can be done to receive extra credit towards homework grades. The common time geometry students studied plane geometry concepts as well as calculated perimeters, areas, and volumes. During February, advanced math students can participate in the annual Illinois Math League Contest. All students will be involved in reviewing and preparing for the March ISAT.

Science

Mr. Larsen

It is hard to believe that the school year is already half over. I guess time goes fast

when you are having fun. I hope it went fast for the kids as well. During the second quarter we covered Plate Tectonics. Plate Tectonics is a theory that explains how the Earth has evolved over time. It also explains that the Earth's plates are in constant motion and explains why we have earthquakes, volcanoes, and mountains as well as why they occur where they do. This chapter will end with quite a challenging test.

The chapter we will tackle next deals with earthquakes. This chapter will end with a small test. As a final project, students will be asked to write lyrics to a song using the vocabulary words from the chapter. This will prove to be very challenging for some, so they will have the option to work individually or in a small group. The songs will also have to be presented to the class. The next unit of study will be volcanoes. As always, if there are any questions or concerns, please contact me.

