

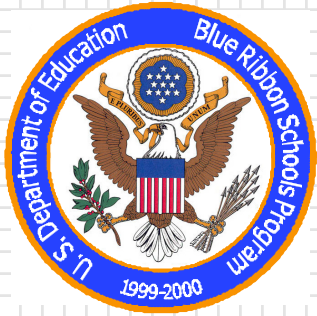
# 88 EXPECTATIONS

*Quo Fata*

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## *The Inside Scoop*

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# Welcome, Mrs. Agnello!

Dear Parents and Students,

I would like to start out by introducing myself, my name is Hilary Agnello and I will be the student teacher in Mr. Scaletta's classroom for the remainder of the school year.

I was a graduate of Prairie Ridge High School in Crystal Lake, and earned my Undergraduate Degree in Mathematics from Penn State University. I am currently a graduate student at National-Louis University, working towards my teaching certificate and my graduate degree in education.

I am very lucky to have the opportunity to work with your son or daughter and look forward to enhancing their educational experience.

Sincerely,  
Hilary Agnello



*Yes, there are TWO Mrs. Agnellos in District #10. Mrs. Hilary Agnello's mother-in-law, Mrs. Carol Agnello, teaches 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Franzen Intermediate school!*

# So that it never happens again!

If it happened once, it can happen again, and not only to Jews. The Holocaust is a human tragedy that must never be repeated. It models what can happen if prejudice, discrimination, and hatred exist in the hands of unchecked arrogance mixed with unlimited state power and technology used for inhumane purposes. From 1939 to 1945, millions died Six million Jews were murdered simply because they were Jews. When we learn how and why these things were allowed to happen, hopefully we can prevent them from ever happening again.

The 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of Common Time will be devoted to learning about the Holocaust. Students will begin by

identifying what make them and their families unique then participate in activities that help them grasp an understanding of stereotyping.

Throughout the unit, students will research various topics, view videos, visit the Holocaust Museum in Skokie, and read novels and articles. After each step, students will record their thoughts in a response journal.

The final step in understanding the Holocaust will be to research and create our own Holocaust Museum. Students' displays will be open for the entire school to visit.

# MATH FACTS

## Fourth Quarter Math Topics

### Algebra

Factoring Polynomials-Solving Quadratic Equations- Rational Expressions-Pythagorean Theorem-Radical Expressions and Equations-Distance Formula

### General Math

Area of Circles-Surface Area and Volume of Prisms, Pyramids, Cylinders and Cones-Geometry of Translations, Reflections and Rotations- Statistical Measurements and Developing Graphs-Algebra of Polynomials

## World War I to the Great Depression

We started out the quarter talking about the “Great War” and learned how the U.S. got involved. We learned about the different weapons and tactics used in combat. We also talked about propaganda, which will help us on a project in our WWII unit.

The 8<sup>th</sup> graders also received a better understand of the women’s suffrage movement and how hard it was for women to get the right to vote (Amendment 19). Also, we discussed the Roaring 20’s!!! We wrote stories using 20’s slang and shared them with the rest of the class – “My dogs are barking, from all that dancing I did last night. I’m jumping in my breezer and heading home.”

We just finished up talking about the Great Depression and the problems America faced. This unit was about the stock market, riding the rails, true stories from the depression, the Dust Bowl, and finally leading up the next World War.

# Language Arts and Common Time

We have been travelling through time to understand powerful civil rights issues in connection with Black History Month.

The economic factor of the Great Depression and the Jim Crow laws of the South during that time period provided much to discuss as we read *Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry!*, a novel about an African-American family trying to make ends meet and survive racist attitudes in Mississippi during the 1930’s. The story is told from the perspective of Cassie, a nine-year-old girl who learns more than fourth grade lessons before she turns ten. Our students learned about metaphors, similes, symbolism, cause and effect, consequences, predicting, and characterization. This rich

novel also provided us with the means to prepare for the ISAT test. Students wrote many extended responses, an important requirement for the test, and practiced providing detailed support with quotes, explanations, personal connections, and extensions.

In Common Time, we prepared for the ISAT test in math and language arts. Next quarter we’ll study the Holocaust, learning about stereotyping, genocide, and we’ll take a trip to the Holocaust Museum in Skokie to see actual artifacts from the concentration camps. We’ll then create our own Holocaust museum exhibit based on our research.

## La Clase de español *and* World Cultures

### World Cultures

In World Cultures we started the unit on Africa during the third quarter. The students started with a unit on the countries in North Africa. Each student created a project on one of the countries in North Africa. At the end of the quarter students were put into groups and they are creating power point projects on a certain geographical point of interest in West Africa. During fourth quarter students will continue with their journey through Africa and one of the future projects will be to plan a trip or safari to Africa. Students will continue to use the library and the computer lab to gain insight into the cultures of Africa.

### Espanol

In Spanish students finished the unit on the house. They did a short unit where they learned commands and a couple of other grammatical structures. We have just completed filming a commercial in the studio for a pain medication. The students wrote the skit using the vocabulary and grammar from our current unit, parts of the body. In groups the students made their props and then performed in front of the camera. The students are excited about watching the video! For fourth quarter we will finish the body parts unit and the students will be introduced to the formation of the past tense.

## Of songs and chemistry and moles

As the winter turns to spring, eighth graders were very busy singing songs, working with “decayed atoms” and performing a metal flame test. Your child wrote a song about an element on the periodic table to a famous tune and then performed it in front of the class. Students worked with and learned about radioactive atoms, learning about what makes an atom stable or unstable and the use of these elements in medicine. Students learned the meaning of half-life of radioactive elements, the time required for one half of a sample to

decay, and engaged in a hands-on activity communicating their results onto a graph. They also had the opportunity to identify metals by the color emitted when placed in the flame of a Bunsen burner.

Students were also given the chance to do an extra credit mole project, which was due April 6. Finally, Peacock Middle School students continue to collect pennies for charity. The goal is to collect six million pennies. Please allow your child to bring pennies to school for this activity.