



The Phoenix 2

Fall Newsletter 2011

Mrs. Hart—Math

Phoenix 2 math classes have been successfully following the order of operations, a feat that needed review and practice! We were then able to move on to working with variables, including substituting in values within order of operations problems. The properties of mathematics are always tricky, but the students all learned to say and use the "multiplicative property of zero," among others. Everyone is able to use the coordinate plane's 4 quadrants and carry over plotting points to creating and interpreting scatter plots. Marking period 2 will include absolute value and the "sign rules" for the 4 operations with positive and negative integers before moving on to 1 and 2 step equation solving. Math always builds on the previous concept, so we are sure to master each one before moving on!

Ms. Sorensen--English

Reading and writing assessments were given to students at the start of the first marking period. Students were very patient and worked diligently on these tasks. These assessments are important for student placement and will provide a benchmark to determine growth. During the first marking period, students learned the routines and procedures of the class. In both reading and writing, the focus was on identifying and developing main ideas and details. Students enjoyed the reading of Ron Jones' novel *The Acorn People*. In addition to reading, ongoing work in language arts includes capitalization, punctuation, sentence structure, organization, vocabulary, and word parts.

Mr. Balog--Social Studies

The first quarter of Social Studies for seventh grade students was filled with diversity and a wide variety of subjects. We began by learning the Preamble to the Constitution, which was followed by a short lesson and discussion of the events that took place on September 11, 2001. Students then got to learn about UNICEF and even got to meet people living with disabilities through the D.A.T.E. program. The next subject we covered was a school-wide unit on bullying and how to prevent bullying at school and at home on the internet. The last unit we covered during the first quarter was Geography. Students practiced map-reading skills, memorized geography-related vocabulary, and learned about human and physical features on maps. The unit culminated in a trip project where students planned an overnight trip to a destination of their choice. Next up for the second quarter will be Mesopotamia, World Religions, and the Middle East!

Mr. Moore—Science

Throughout the first marking period, 7th grade science classes have been studying atoms. We have been learning about the different scientists who have studied them throughout the years and how new technology has allowed us to learn even more about them. We will be learning about elements and the periodic table in the upcoming weeks.