



The Storm Team Fall Newsletter 2011



Mrs. Nancy Patterson **English**

During the first marking period of English, the Storm Team students were very productive. They patiently completed grade-level assessments in both reading and writing. These tools are used to determine and finalize student placement which is critical in the seventh grade year. Southern Regional writing conventions were addressed including: TAP and RUNWAYA. Students worked in writing on developing ideas and incorporating specific details. In addition, the study of literature and literary terms began this marking period with the reading of Ron Jones' novel *The Acorn People* and continued with Toni Cade Bambara's short story entitled "Raymond's Run". Further, the children worked on sentence types, punctuation, and capitalization to enhance their overall writing skills. The end of the first marking period focused on reading comprehension, a culminating writing assignment, notebook check, and clean-out.



Mrs. MaryAnn Fleck **Social Studies**

This marking period the Storm students examined topics ranging from geography to disabilities and then to bullying. Geography included map skills

and the five themes of geography. The D.A.T.E. program started the topic of disabilities and how nations are equipped to deal with these issues. Bullying was another topic we explored. The marking period ended with a project of planning a trip anywhere in the Continental United States.

In the second marking period, our team will study ancient civilizations including Mesopotamia, Greece, and Rome. We will also look at the Middle East today, which is the modern location of Mesopotamia. We will also study the geography of the Middle East.

Happy Thanksgiving!



Mrs. Sarah Line **Science**

The Storm Team students have successfully completed their Science unit on Laboratory Safety and are currently studying Chemistry. I was faced with a problem. How do I make them experts in laboratory safety and experiments? My hypothesis, I predicted that they would become chemists if they could complete a series of laboratory experiments and use laboratory equipment. They have used materials such as graduated cylinders, over flow cans, beakers, and triple beam balances to execute their experiments.

They also used chemicals that you can find in your kitchen to make chemical reactions occur. They observed various physical and chemical changes. They also found results by duplicating some of the experimental procedures demonstrated by myself and by Bill Nye. One procedure involved mixing baking soda and vinegar to blow up a balloon with carbon dioxide gas.

They should be able to explain the difference between physical properties and chemical properties as well as be able to give you numerous examples. They can even read you their "Phys-Chem Properties Guys" children's' books. Chemical formulas and equations will be their final tasks. In groups, the students will use manipulatives such as molecular models to visualize the invisible particles that exist all around us.

The overall conclusion; Chemistry is All Around Us!
Remember homework is posted on srsd.net weekly.
Thank you, Mrs. Line



Mr. Eiker
Math

In math during the 1st marking period we worked on our organizational skills, estimation skills, and our reasoning skills. We have successfully completed our units on order of operations, evaluating expressions, integers, and the coordinate plane. We have found both the class website (<http://www.srsd.net/teachers/keikerwp/>) and the book website very useful for homework completion and studying. Please continue to use these as they are valuable resources.

Homework should be checked through the use of the agenda book and class website. We will continue to work on open-ended questions throughout the marking period in preparation for the 7th grade NJ ASK. A majority of tests and quizzes, and especially take-homes, will have strong emphasis on ASK-like questions. Let us continue to excel during the 2nd marking period.

Thanks to all that contributed tissues and hand sanitizer to our classroom. We all appreciated your generosity.



Mrs. Carney
Physical Education

The Storm Team Physical Education classes got off to a great start! A Games Unit, Field Hockey and Dance were introduced; which allowed for teamwork, sportsmanship and cooperative learning. Our weekly "Fitness Day" served as a challenge to set personal goals of improvement for the Circuit and Mile Run.

Fitness Components of Cardiovascular Endurance, Muscular Strength, Muscular Endurance and Flexibility were tested individually in the Southern Fitness 500. (Please ask your child to share their experience). We also introduced the National Fitness Gram Testing of which your child's results are e-mailed to you. We hope you will take the time to discuss your child's fitness level with them. Throughout this year's classes we hope to improve all levels of each student's fitness for the spring comparison tests.

Additional assessments came in the form of Rubrics which were applied to each activity. We also had a written Field Hockey Test and a 7th grade Anti-Smoking Campaign poster assignment which was turned in for a school competition. We are hoping one of our Storm Team members will be the winner.