

The Surf

Quarterly Newsletter

November 2011

The first marking period has been very successful for the Surf. The Team teachers have enjoyed getting to know all of our students. We have had many outstanding achievements socially and academically.

The school year started with many activities to help our new seventh graders adjust to the middle school. Students participated in the iPlan workshop to learn about ways to be successful students. Most importantly is staying organized! Students are encouraged to use their agenda books to record homework assignments daily and to keep their lockers clean.

Social Studies classes started the year by learning the Preamble to the Constitution. The entire school recited the Preamble on Constitution Day. Mr. Sowles held a party to celebrate and all the Surf Team students signed a framed copy of the Constitution. Bullying was discussed and culminated with a visit and skits from the S.T.Y.L.E students along with a discussion on bullying from Mrs. Blean. Many times teachers do not see bullying when it happens so it is important that the students speak up when they are being bullied or when they see another student in that situation.

All of the Social Studies classes had a visit from the D.A.T.E. (Disability Awareness Training through Education) group to discuss with the students their individual disabilities and how they deal with them on a daily basis. The students also read and wrote about current events on topics that will hopefully make them more globally aware. The study of Ancient History will begin during the second marking period with the study of the Mesopotamia/Fertile Crescent.

Another major focus of our team is getting our students involved in activities. Students who participate in after school activities are invited to attend the Activity

Day picnic in May. It is a fun day where the students have a picnic to celebrate what they have accomplished in their after school activities. A student must stay after at least ten times for an activity to be eligible. If your child has not joined a club or sport after school, please encourage them to do so. A few of the many clubs available are Winter Intramural sports, World Language club, Math team and Chess club. There really is something available for everyone at Southern. Remember that there are buses provided for after school activities.

The SURF teachers would like help as cold season is approaching. Any donations of tissues for the classroom would be greatly appreciated. They are not supplied to us and many students look to use them. MaxTap is sponsoring a bottle cap collection competition which is not only a team challenge but also helping the environment. The Builders club food drive was successful thanks to the students' donations.

We have been very busy in all of our academic courses. Mrs. Lovas has been teaching variables, equations and integers in math. Homework is assigned each night Monday through Thursday and does count towards their grade. All homework must be completed and work shown in order to receive credit. Please also remember the importance of the take home tests and that all work must be completed in pencil. Please check Mrs. Lovas's website weekly for updates on due dates. If you haven't done so already, check out the web site for the text book at www.pre-alg.com and also www.studyisland.com. These sites have a tremendous amount of additional study material that can be done at home or in Media Center at Homework Habitat after school. So go ahead, practice your math skills and have fun, too!

Mrs. Sefcik's science classes are engaged in their study of Chemistry. Students have had fun learning about matter by working as teammates to conduct experiments. Learning to think like scientists has been the focal point of all activities. Students are encouraged to ask new questions based on what they have learned. After the December break, the study of living things will begin. Students will utilize microscopes to examine cells and learn how cells function. Students need to utilize their notes and study guides to prepare for tests and quizzes.

During Marking Period #1, English students on the Surf Team covered a variety of reading and writing skills. First, students spent many summer hours fulfilling Southern's reading requirements which included three open-ended essay assignments. These assignments and the rubrics related to their assessment served as a basis for the future use of rubric understanding. This is an assessment often used nowadays and requires practice for thorough comprehension of this criteria used by most educators today. We also studied the development of ideas through various brainstorming techniques. This study of ideas will serve as a basis for all and any activities students ever engage in, whether as students in school or as members of their family, community, or the world. As the quarter progressed we also incorporated spelling and vocabulary components which are elementary to any language arts program. Then students learned numerous literary techniques and elements which were applied to the class reading of The Acorn People. Finally our student authors began an intensive memoir writing process which will be revised and edited throughout the course of the school year.

Mr. Iacono, our health and physical education teacher, will be moving inside for the second marking period. Fitness will still take center court with the fitness circuit taking over and expending the mile run. The mile run will return again in the spring. Students will also be covering three major sport activities. They will include floor hockey, volleyball and basketball. Students will focus on the skills, rules, teamwork, safety, and sportsmanship aspects of team sports.

Southern Regional Middle School honors the successes of our students in many ways. Many of our students made the honor roll for the first quarter. Congratulations to all of you on this achievement! The school wide Student of the Quarter is another way students are rewarded for accomplishments in a subject during the marking period. Students are treated to an ice cream sundae party in the cafeteria. Congratulations to all students who received this recognition!

The Surf team also honors outstanding students with the "Student of the Month Award" for each subject. Students chosen for the months of September and October are as follows:

Math: Laura Patterson and Kaitlyn Shoeneberg
Social Studies: Dana Cannon and Chase Bendik
Science: Steven Mathis and Elena Nitting
English: Cara Ditmar and Victoria Bayer
Physical Education: Dan Malay

Students who will qualify academically for the National Junior Honor Society next year should begin preparing now. The areas to work on besides academics are participation in school activities, community service, and leadership. Only events from seventh grade are allowed on the application. Remember to document what you do!

All of our athletes did a great job during the fall season. We are very proud of their accomplishments. We are now at the start of winter sports. Good luck to all our students participating in Basketball, Wrestling and Cheerleading this season.

Mrs. Blead would like to remind all of our students that homework completion is a critical part of their grade. Homework Habitat is a place where students can go after school to do their homework with the supervision of a teacher. It is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday from 2:15 till 3:00. Your homework is your pass! Please remember the Surf teachers can be reached by e-mail or through Mrs. Blead, our guidance counselor (ext 4226). You can also check in for Language Arts, Math, and Science updates on Mrs. Halevy's, Mrs. Lovas's and Mrs. Sefcik's web pages by searching Faculty from the SRSD home page and clicking on the house symbol next to their email addresses. We are all looking forward to a very successful second quarter and wish everyone a happy and safe vacation and holiday season!