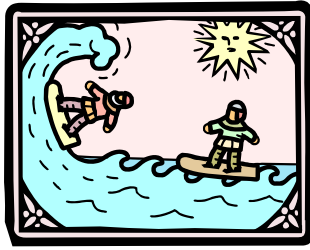


# The Surf



## **Quarterly Newsletter May 2012**

The third marking period was very exciting and busy for the Surf Team. Our talented students have been involved in a variety of extra-curricular activities while working hard to maintain their academic success. We are all looking forward to a fun fourth quarter!

In math classes, Mrs. Lovas taught percents, probability and geometry. Students learned some valuable life skills studying discounts and taxes. Students also continued to review previous concepts in preparation for the NJASK 7 at the end of April. During the fourth quarter, students will be continuing to learn geometry, number theory and fractions.

In science, the study of heredity has begun and students are very curious about the topic. Students will also learn about the concepts of evolution and adaptation of animals. A comparative anatomy lesson will be completed via the frog dissection in May. Permission slips will be sent home for students to participate in the dissection or to choose an alternative assignment. Students will be provided with a study guide for the final exam, which will be cumulative, and include a performance assessment. Good study habits continue to be encouraged.

In Language Arts, class time was dedicated to many process writing experiences and state test writing preparation. In addition to attending to composition skills, students also spent time on critical reading. Many hours

were dedicated to the comprehension of text including both fictional and nonfictional literature. There are numerous levels of reading, and analysis is particularly difficult. As a result, the students' academic energy was spent concentrating on this skill. Students also worked on their higher level thinking skills by writing persuasive essays, an important component of the NJASK test. Fourth marking period will concentrate on grammar and the reading of the very popular novel Freak the Mighty.

Mr. Sowles' Social Studies classes started the fourth marking period studying European Feudalism. Students will be studying the Crusades, Chivalry, Popes & Kings, Child Labor, Genocide (past & present), and Ellis Island (just before their trip to Ellis Island).

Weekly current events and Do Now exercises will continue for the rest of the year. U.S. and world events are constantly discussed and written about during class and for homework. There will be one more major project which will be starting in the computer lab on April 30<sup>th</sup>, with a due date of May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Mr. Iacono enjoyed teaching health this quarter but for fourth marking period it's back to the gym. Students will be learning the rules and skills required for softball and team handball. The main focus is on sportsmanship and giving your best effort at all times. Students will continue to become fit through physical education class and will end the year with physical fitness testing. The skills tested include the mile and shuttle runs, push-ups, sit-ups and the sit and reach. Please remember to be prepared every day!

May 25th is the Activity Day Picnic. All students who have been involved in after school activities are invited to Veteran's Park in Berkeley for a fun filled day. Students not going on the

picnic will have a regular day of school. Permission slips for this event will not be accepted late, so please turn them in as soon as you receive them. There is no cost for this event.

Be reminded that the end of the year brings many meetings for the teachers and trips for students. It becomes increasingly difficult to schedule extra help and makeup sessions. Please ask your teachers before you plan to stay after school. Also, remember that anything you miss should be made up as soon as possible.

With our busy schedule, this quarter will fly right by! You will receive a schedule toward the end of the school year giving specific times for the final exams. Teachers will be reviewing the concepts that will be tested and will provide students with everything they need to prepare for exams. Please plan to be in school everyday during the last week of school for the final exams. If you know your child is going to miss a final please contact Mrs. Bleam as soon as possible to make alternate arrangements. She can be reached at 597-9481 ext.4226.

The Surf team teachers had the privilege of choosing the Student of the Month for the middle school for the month of April. We chose two very deserving students: Laura Patterson and Tristan Farina. We are very proud of their accomplishments this year!

Our "Student of the Month" recipients for January, February, March and by subject were:

**Language Arts:**

Caroline Rose, Matthew Hart, and Shayne Brennan

**Math:**

Jackson Donahower, Kristina Pineno, and Abigael Coughlin

**Science:**

Nickolas Engell, Victor Vargas, and Amanda Rainey

**Social Studies:**

Brian Curley, Rachel Lange, and Elena Nitting

**Physical Education:**

Makenzi Kalsch and Danielle Sinko

In addition, several of our students were winners of the community's **Stafford Arbor Day contest**. For the poster category, Cara Ditmar won third place. For the poetry, Cara Ditmar won first place, Katharine Johnson won second, and Lauryn Flynn won third place. Rachel Lange took first place and Samantha Enterline received honorable mention for their essays!

Elena Nitting, Laura Patterson and Nolan Watson competed with the SRMS Math team. Their team took third place in the county!

Our students continued to represent Southern and the Surf proudly on the baseball, softball and track teams this spring. In addition, we have many actors, singers and musicians who have performed on the stage here at Southern and in the community! As a team, the Surf students are talented both in and out of the classroom.

Please make sure you check online for progress reports and report cards. If you have any questions, contact Connie Gard, Guidance Secretary, at ext.4202. Summer will be here before you know it! Ms. Bleam and all the Surf Team teachers would like to thank you for your support this year in your child's education. Please encourage them all to keep working hard!

