



The Storm Team Fall Newsletter 2012

Teachers, parents, and children
working together



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. 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.

Remember to check my website for homework and updates!

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.

**Check the STORM home page at srsd.net!
Homework is now posted on our individual
websites!!**





**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. 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, rounding skills, and our reasoning skills. We have successfully completed our units on order of operations, evaluating expressions, integers, and fractions. We have found both the class website (<http://teachers.srsd.net/keiker/>) and the book website (www.pre-alg.com) 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.

COLD AND FLU SEASON IS UPON US! PLEASE SEND IN A BOX OF TISSUES IF POSSIBLE!





Mrs. Carney's Fall Newsletter

The Storm Team Physical Education classes got off to a great start! A Games Unit and Social Dance were introduced; which allowed for teamwork, sportsmanship and cooperative learning. Our Mile Run served as a challenge to set personal goals of improvement. Reaching them brought the students a reward.

Fitness Components of Cardiovascular Endurance, Muscular Strength, Muscular Endurance and Flexibility were tested individually in both the Southern Fitness 500 (ask your child to share their experience). We also took the National FitnessGram Tests and those results were e-mailed home. It is hoped you will review them with your child. 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. Students did self-assessments as well as receiving Teacher assessments. In addition a 7th grade Anti-Smoking Campaign poster assignment was turned in for a school competition and a PE Quarterly was given using terms from our gym Word Wall and class Study Guide.