



7-1  
The Patriots  
Newsletter  
February Edition

**Wow! We are two thirds of the way through the school year! Time does fly. The second trimester ends on February 26<sup>th</sup> and our second round of parent teacher conferences will be happening in a few weeks. We would love to talk with you about your child's progress here at school. Keep an eye out for more information about conferences coming soon.**

**Upcoming Important Dates:**

**March 5<sup>th</sup> — Team Level Reward**

**March 15<sup>th</sup> — Parent Teacher Conferences**

**March 29<sup>th</sup> - April 2<sup>nd</sup> — Spring Break: No School**

**In 7th grade science classes, Mrs. Gabrenya, Mrs. Heabel, and Mrs. Slater** are beginning the last trimester, all teaching biology. In biology, students will be exploring topics such as the cell, genetics, and the human body. They will receive a new list of science essentials, which will be the core of the curriculum. Students will still have short cycle assessments, problems in thinking activities, projects, and homework assignments to complete throughout the trimester. We would like them to continue using their science binders from chemistry with the same tabs. We look forward to working with you and your child to make the end of 7th grade science as successful as possible. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

**Mr. Elsner's math classes** are finishing the unit titled "Stretching and Shrinking: Similarity." By the end of this unit, students will know how to create similar figures, how to determine whether two figures are similar, and how to predict the relationship between length and area for two similar figures.

The next unit is titled "Comparing and Scaling: Ratio, Proportions, and Percent." Students will be looking at problem solving in many situations and will learn to make comparisons using ratios, fractions, percents, and rates.

**Mr. Elsner's honors math classes** are working in chapter 8 dealing with proportions, percents, and probability. This chapter further develops the fraction and percent skills students learned in Chapter 7 for use in solving proportions and percent equations. Chapter 9 is real numbers and inequalities. Students will be introduced to the square root property, the Pythagorean Theorem, and solving and graphing inequalities.

**All math students are working on ISAT preparation with extended response writing and ISAT sample math problems.**

**Mrs. Cedeno's** English classes have a new teacher for the months of February and March. Mr. Nicholas is filling in for Mrs. Cedeno, who is on maternity leave after the birth of a healthy baby girl! Students are adapting well to the change and have completed work on their persuasive essays. After deliberating about problems facing our community, country, and world, students made a persuasive case for their potential solution. Many were very convincing!

Students have begun working on the reading strategy determining importance, improving their ability to assess significance especially from non-fiction text. They have been exercising this skill using various textbooks, non-fiction, and fiction books. They will soon begin extended response practice to help prepare them for the upcoming **ISAT tests**, in which they will need to employ many of the reading strategies they have been learning.

**Mrs. Trowbridge's English classes** have just completed their third major writing assignment of the year. This persuasive essay had students focus on persuading or convincing the reader of something. Students chose their own topic for these essays.

Students will soon begin the strategy Determining Importance. Students will spend considerable time doing activities when reading to help them determine what is important and what to focus on while reading. They will begin the unit with a pretest after ISAT testing is completed.

In the beginning of March, students will also conclude their second oral book report of the year. Check with your child to see if he/she is prepared for this very important speech.

Mrs. Trowbridge's students are gearing up for **ISAT testing**, which will take place the first week of March. These tests are extremely important. Students are taking practice multiple-choice tests, as well as extended writing response tests. These tests are then gone over in class. The extended response example essays that scored a four (the highest score on the rubric) are also discussed to help students with their own writing. A score of three or four is considered passing on the extended writing. Parents are encouraged to ask their children about the preparations they are doing for **ISAT testing**. Also please make sure your child gets enough sleep the week of testing and eats a healthy breakfast!

**Team 7-1 social studies classes** will be meeting two trimesters this year. In the first trimester, students will focus on the colonization in the United States and the 13 English colonies. Each student will study one colony in depth and make a poster or brochure representing their efforts. Students will then continue by studying the Revolutionary War. A project will also be completed for this major event in our nation's history. Several weeks will finally be spent studying for the U.S Constitution Test. This test will be given at the end of the first trimester your child has social studies.

**In the second trimester your child has social studies** students will study how the United States government got started with George Washington as the first president. They will continue all the way through the events of the Civil War. Students will explore topics such as the Louisiana Purchase, Lewis and Clark's Expedition, The War of 1812, Westward Expansion, The Industrial Revolution, Slavery, Life in the North and the South, and the causes and effects of the Civil War. Not only will they practice reading non-fiction texts to discover the history of the U.S., but also they will complete creative projects to enhance their learning of the first half of our nation's story.

**Please don't hesitate to call or email us if you have any concerns or questions. We are continuing to work hard with your child to ensure progress and success in his or her education. With your support, our team can truly make the learning experience a positive and enriching one.**

**The school phone number is (630) 858-3850**

Julia Trowbridge/English, SS: ext. 6309 [JTrowbridge@d15.us](mailto:JTrowbridge@d15.us)

Marta Cedeno/English, SS: ext. 6307 [MCedeno@d15.us](mailto:MCedeno@d15.us)

Hyon Elsner/Math, HMath: ext. 6308 [HElsner@d15.us](mailto:HElsner@d15.us)

Rebecca Gabrenya/Sci: ext. 6310 [RGabrenya@d15.us](mailto:RGabrenya@d15.us)