



The Prodigies' January/February Newsletter

The Prodigies' Mission Statement

Productive, respectful, and
Responsible students who
Overcome obstacles with
Determination that
Inspire others with
Greatness and
Intelligence while
Exceeding our standards as
Strong students.

NWEA Testing and AIMS testing:

We have just finished up our second round of testing. The kids did a wonderful job! They all tried their very best.

Inside the classroom:

English: In the English classrooms we are currently working on the reading strategy of questioning. The students learned about the 4 types of questions and how each of them brings your comprehension to a higher level. The students also have been practicing questioning by using their own text selection and post-it noting their book with the question that comes to mind. The current literary device we are focusing on is figurative language. The students took a pre-test on all of the devices and will take a post-test to show growth at the end of unit. Finally, we have started writing persuasive essays. The students are working hard on trying to persuade their audience.

Science: Ms. Taylor is teaching Science B this trimester. In Science B, students have finished studying what happens inside the Earth and are now studying what happens on the surface of the Earth. We have tested various characteristics of minerals, including hardness, cleavage, and luster. We will discover a mineral's color may not be what it seems when we test its streak. We will find out how the different types of rocks are formed and how to identify a rock based on its characteristics. Your child should be well on his or her way growing crystals at home. The final report is due February 22, 2010.

Students taking Science A this trimester have finished their study of astronomy. They are now beginning their study of meteorology, or weather and climate. The students will track weather in our area as well as on a national level. The students will be working on a scientific experiment at home. Please ask your child about what they have chosen to

test out! All students should be studying at home at least 10-20 minutes each night. If your child is not sure what to study, have him or her review the essentials. As a reminder, each student needs to earn 80% or better on each Short Cycle Assessment (SCA) and these come directly from the essentials.

Social Science: In Social Studies, we have studied The Great Depression and its effects on America and marched through the World War II Era, focusing on how the Americans pulled together as never before to help defeat the enemy. We are also discussing what made World War II the deadliest war in history, including the study of the Holocaust. As we continue into the Cold War Era, please remind your son or daughter to come prepared to class with extra pens and pencils, along with any other needed supplies. It is very important that they keep these supplies replenished all year.

Math: CMP - Students will be spending the next month focusing on probability, ISAT test preparation and the Pythagorean Theorem. Students will be looking at experimental and theoretical probability. This will involve conducting experiments to determine the likelihood of an event happening. ISAT preparation will focus on geometry concepts and extended response problems. With the Pythagorean Theorem students will look at the relationship between squares and right triangles. Please make sure your child has the supplies he/she needs for math class; math spiral, binder, pencils, and a calculator.

Honors Math: Algebra - Students are now looking into systems of equations and inequalities. They have learned three different ways to solve a system of equations. Ask your child what his/her preference is when solving these systems. Students have learned how to graph a system of inequalities and finding the area of coordinate points that is the solution set for the system. After taking the chapter 7 test, we will spend some time practicing problem solving for the ISAT extended response. Our next chapter will deal with exponents and exponential functions. Please make sure your child has the supplies he/she needs for math; math spiral, pencils, and a calculator.

Important Dates:

February 1: 8th grade letter requirements go into effect

February 4: Graduation Pictures

February 12: Student Council sponsored dance 7:00-9:00

February 15: No school

February 19: Trimester reward

February 26: Institute Day

Please feel free to contact us by phone or email.

Ms. McClaghry x6511
kmccclaghry@d15.us

Ms. Taylor x6512
rtaylor@d15.us

Mrs. Allemanna x6510
kallemana@d15.us

Mrs. Velazquez x6509
rvelazquez@d15.us