

Shapleigh 7th Grade News



Friday, October 23, 2015

Welcome to the first newsletter of the year!

In this document, you will find general team news, specific class news, and contact information if you need to reach us - we love compliments, but we are happy to field questions, comments, and concerns as well.

TRACK WALK

As the weather gets colder, we want to remind families that we walk around the track all year, weather permitting,



so on cold days students are expected to wear hats, jackets, scarves, mittens, and boots when it snows. We strongly believe that the fresh air and exercise are vital to student attention and performance during the school day, therefore we want them to be

prepared with appropriate outdoor gear when the temperature drops. Thank you in advance for your active reminders to your students about dressing for the weather!

FIELD TRIPS

Students will be getting a permission slip for a trip to see a performance at UNH in Durham, NH, called **ENCORE!** The production is five classic short stories which will be performed on stage. Students will be reading these short stories and then comparing them to the stage production. We are scheduled to attend on December 18th. Be on the lookout for the permission slips!!

HALLOWEEN DANCE

The 6th grade is hosting the Halloween Dance on Friday, 10/27/17 from 7 - 9 pm in the school cafeteria. Cost is \$5. to get in and there will be food and fun to be had!

PARENT CONFERENCES

Emails were sent home last week to invite parents to fall conferences. The dates are:

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25TH FROM 3 PM - 7 PM

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND FROM 3 PM - 7 PM

There are still times available!

Use the link: cgagnon.youcanbook.me to sign up for Gagnon and Sebert homerooms or go to lkennison.youcanbook.me to sign up for Kennison and Williams homerooms.

Contact Information:

If you have any questions, feel free to email us at the emails listed below.

Sincerely,
Your 7th Grade Team

Team website: <http://seventhgrade.kitteryschools.com/>

Ms. Kennison (lkennison@kitteryschools.com)

Mrs. Sebert (nsebert@kitteryschools.com)

Mrs. Gagnon (cgagnon@kitteryschools.com)

Mr. Williams (swilliams@kitteryschools.com)

We also have websites that are accessible on the Shapleigh School website under Staff Directory. Your student's Google Classroom is also an excellent way to see what your student is working on in Language Arts and Science classes.

Update on Classes - What's Going On?

Language Arts with Nancy Sebert

In Language Arts, students have been engaged in a variety of different learning opportunities since school started. We created public portraits that are displayed on students' lockers that illustrate details about themselves as learners. We discovered connections between sculpture and writing with pencil holders that demonstrate the writing process and then analyzed the parts of a writing process with some vocabulary and finally students demonstrated their understanding of their own process by explaining it in writing and visually, choosing from a variety of media formats. These projects will be presented to their classmates to practice public speaking using visuals and appropriate speaking skills. It will be the first of many opportunities to practice presentation skills, a vital life skill. All we do is based on a real audience, students knowing their purpose, the criteria on which they will be judged, and skills that go beyond 7th grade and school in general. We focus on reading, writing, speaking, presentation, and language skills that have relevance to students now and how it will be useful to them in the future.



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Science with Corrine Gagnon

Students have been engaged in scientific inquiry over the past two months. They have been learning about how to write a lab report (inquiry write up), how to use lab materials, collect and record data, and communicate results. This is the same process we will go through throughout the year. I am providing a lot of support and guidance and will eventually be handing over more independent responsibility to the students as the year goes on. They solved a mystery called "Grandfather's Clock" experimenting with pendulums. If you happen to have a "grandfather's clock" that someday does not keep good time, your child should know how to fix it. We have just begun a new unit on matter and energy and this area of study will be our focus for several weeks. Volunteers Needed: If you are free on November 9th I would love to have a few extra volunteers as Shapleigh students participate in the 2017 "Stack Up." As of right now, many fourth grade students will be joining the entire 7th grade in cup stacking for a minimum of 30 minutes to help break the Guinness Book of World Record for the "Most People Sport Stacking at Multiple Locations in One Day." Please let Carol Lombardi (our volunteer coordinator) know if you would like to join in the fun. This year I will be using Google Classroom for projects, assignments and reminders. Ask your child to show you what it looks like. My website is also a great place to check for information on assignments and class content.

Social Studies with Stephen Williams

In Social Studies we have just finished our first unit that combines geography and culture. The students have been taking notes which they are to study for 10 to 15 minutes each day. Your students have also chosen a country that they will research throughout the year. If they practice their presentations in front of you and you can give them some constructive criticism, that would be great. Also, the holiday season is fast approaching. This is usually the best time to work on the Family Research book with interviews of family members.

Math with Lauren Kennison

In math class we started the year off with our Integers Unit. The focus of this unit was understanding and developing systematic ways to add, subtract, multiply, and divide positive and negative numbers. We used our Glencoe Math Curriculum as a resource this unit, had daily class discussions and did several supplemental activities to check for student understanding. Those Integer Unit test grades are posted on JumpRope! Remember to check in with your students throughout the week about the Weekly Math Homework that they are given in class on Mondays and will turn in on Fridays. Lastly, having conversations at home about math - whether it be balancing a checkbook, temperature changes, halving or doubling recipes, etc. relate very well to our discussions around positive and negative numbers from our Integers Unit, but also to the Fractions Unit that we are beginning this week! Visit my website for daily updates about what is happening in class!

