

February 5, 2017

Hello Everyone,

First, I must remind all the eighth grade parents that there is a planning meeting regarding the eighth grade project on Wednesday, February 8 at 4:00 in the conference room.

Second, everyone please check your mailboxes because I placed your child(ren)'s scores for the Iowa Test of Basic Skills test in them today, so you could pick them up tomorrow. There is also a sheet explaining the scores. The scores came out pretty much as I knew they would from observing the students on a daily basis. Students who have been in the class and school the longest did exceptionally well. Newer students didn't perform quite so well. Please note that these tests only give a snapshot of how well your child(ren) performed on a test on a certain day. It does not say anything about how smart they are or how much they know. Many students have test anxiety and some are just not good test takers. For that reason, I use multiple measures in the classroom to assess students. Even so I will use the test results to improve our instruction. I do want to let you all know that the students performed particularly well in math, science, and social studies. Areas where we will be working to improve will be grammar and mechanics.

I must say another thank you to Karine as she spent a great deal of last weekend working on compiling this data. It is very tedious work to go through all the necessary charts and tables and she did a very careful and precise job. I also want to thank Gwen for working so many hours on our library. We are missing many books, so please have your children check their rooms to see if they might have one of our books they have forgotten.

This week the students will have both P.O.W.s and graded work folders going home. Please be sure they are returned by Friday. Students should also have their first draft of their research paper done by February 22 for peer editing. We will be doing this in groups of three to get better participation by all students and ensure that it is a learning experience as well.

In science, this week we will finish our unit on the digestive system. We will also spend some time on food labels from the CATCH program.

In the 7th/8th math class, we will be finishing our chapter on percentages by working on markup and discount and simple interest.

In social studies, we continue our study of Manifest Destiny and the westward movement. Next week, we will move into a study of the Civil War.

In English/language arts we have been still working on writing sentences, using our vocabulary words correctly. We will have other word study with the words 1-15 this week as well. There will be a test on words 1-15 on Friday. We will be doing cursive, reading comprehension, and grammar as well.

Best wishes,

Carla

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, February 7: Hundredth Day of School

Thursday, February 16: I will be attending a math teachers conference and Courtney Miller will be subbing

Friday, February 17: Noon Dismissal with Childcare

6:45-8:45 is the Valentines Dance

Monday, February 20: Holiday, No school and no childcare

Friday, February 24: Institute Day, No school and no childcare

Monday, February 27: I will be out of the classroom working on grade reports so they can go out before spring break.

Wish List:

Someone to teach P.E. on Tuesdays and Thursdays

Ear thermometer for the office

Locking filing cabinet

Gift Cards: Barnes & Noble, Petco, Walmart, and Amazon (*for the pets and library.*)