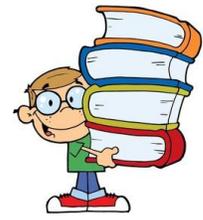


The Buzz

September 14, 2018



Greeting from McDevitt! As you've probably heard our big dose of excitement this week was our fire drill in the rain! Students did a great job following directions and practicing how to safely exit the building. We were back inside and back to work very quickly.

Don't forget that before and after school clubs, sports, arts activities, and school dress-up days all help students to earn School Spirit credits towards our Renaissance program. Students who meet specific criteria based on attendance, behavior, course grades and school spirit (the ABCs) will be eligible for prizes and special recognition at the end of each term. You can help your student to achieve this honor by setting goals, encouraging them to talk about what they are learning, and helping them to keep up with homework. For more details about these events please be sure to check our school website and Mr. Sabin's Friday newsletters, which you should be getting by email each week for details. If you are not receiving school emails from Mr. Sabin, please contact us with an updated email address.

The McDevitt Middle School **Open House Night will be Thursday night, Sept. 27th** from 6:00-8:00 PM. We are excited to share with you our plans for the upcoming year and give you a glimpse at what your students will be studying and learning. We look forward to meeting as many of you as possible as you follow your child's schedule that night. You will have about 10 minutes to visit each class on the schedule, so it will be impossible to speak with each of you individually about your child, but if you would like to speak with us at length, have concerns, or just want to check in please contact one of us to make an appointment for a cluster meeting.

Next Monday, we will begin more regular use of the Chromebook in school. We've been told the cases will be delivered soon! They will be responsible for bring the device with them fully charged each day as part of their regular school supplies.

For those who are not yet aware, this year we are working with Assistant Principal, Ms. Julie Lamoly. We also have our own assigned Guidance Counselor, Mrs. Jeanne Bell. Our APs and counselors will be travel with students throughout their middle school years.

Calendar At-A-Glance: Please note these important upcoming dates:

- Sept. 19th - No School (in observance of Yom Kippur)
- Sept. 27th - Open House Night 6:00-8:00 PM
- Oct. 5th - Friday Parent Coffee Talk 8:00-9:00 AM
- Oct. 8th - No School (in observance of Columbus Day)
- Oct. 12th - Spanish Language Parent Coffee Talk 8:00-9:00 AM
- Oct. 31st - Grade 6 Character Fashion Show (details coming soon)

Math - Ms. DiTroia & Mr. Maillis

This week, students worked on all different types of ratio problems! We have been learning how to solve real world problems involving equivalent ratios using multiple strategies, including tape diagrams, double number lines, and tables. Your student should be able to explain how to use each of these strategies! We have also been practicing strategies for reading and solving word problems. This year, we will be using the "3 Reads" strategy every time we solve word problems. Ask your student to explain what this strategy is all about and how it helps them to read and understand word problems. Looking ahead to next week, we will be learning how to compare ratios in real world situations and how to find Unit Rates.

Important announcement: We will be having our first Quiz in math on Tuesday, September 18th. This quiz will cover everything we have learned so far about Ratios. Students have been working hard to prepare for it in class and on homework assignments, and they should be stopping by for Extra Help if they have questions. Look out for a Review Homework that will be given on Monday night to help students study for this quiz!

Social Studies - Ms. Hanes

This week we answered the question: how do historians learn about the past? Answer: they use sources. A source is anything that gives you information: a book, a speech, a picture or even an object. Students spent time analyzing two sources from American history and were able to explain if the source was primary or secondary. Ask your child this weekend to explain the difference between the two- it will be a great way to prepare for our upcoming quiz!

Upcoming: On Friday, 9-21 students will take a quiz on the Maps, Timelines, and Sources unit. Results will be sent home in next week's Friday Folder. A study guide will be given out on Monday along with practice homework to prepare for the quiz. We will correct it in class together on Thursday. I am also offering extra help study and review sessions in the morning before school and during two lunches next week. Have a wonderful weekend!

Extra Help Hours: I am available everyday before school at 7:30 to answer any questions about homework or class material. Also, I am available at 7:15 by appointment- just send me an email so I can beat the morning traffic! ☺

Academic Support - Mrs. Kissane

Welcome to the 2018-19 school year at McDevitt Middle School! My name is Danielle Kissane, and I am one of the 6th grade special educators providing inclusion supports as well as teaching small group Academic Support for Cluster B. I will be in all core subjects. This includes ELA with Ms. Boudett and Mrs. Peterson, Mathematics with Ms. DiTroia and Mr. Maillis, Science with Mrs. Rodgers, and Social Studies with Ms. Hanes. I also work closely with the guidance staff including Mrs. Bell and Mrs. Siemering, our Student Adjustment Counselor. Your child may see me quite often, sometimes, or maybe rarely. I am required to work with a number of students on IEP's, however I will help any struggling student and sometimes lead a group when a class is split for an activity. I hope this helps you understand who I am in relation to your child if he/she should mention me. Please contact me with any questions or comments! I'm looking forward to a wonderful school year!

Science - Mrs. Rodgers

This has been a short but fun week. Tuesday students were challenged to work as teams to build a Marshmallow and Spaghetti tower, on Wednesday we hypothesized about and tested what happens to Skittles when they are added to water, and then a Thursday students created their own hypothesis and experiment to test Skittles and another liquid. Throughout each activity we focused on key skills of cooperating, following directions and staying on task, observing and recording what happens, and writing short explanations to summarize our findings. Friday we set up our Chromebooks with Ms McCrary, so please use your student's Chromebook to visit Google Classroom, check out PlusPortals, and ask them to show you some of their work on Google Apps. Next week, we will move along with our Engineering and Experimental Unit as students are given a mystery problem for which they must design a solution and build it in class using recycled materials!

English Language Arts - Mrs. Peterson

We were not slackers this week as we discussed and worked on class assignments for our current novel. Students reviewed elements of fiction, annotated the text looking for evidence of the character's transformation, and analyzed appropriate symbols to represent characters. We will conclude with an assessment that includes three short essays. Students have this weekend to preview, plan for, and/or complete the work in an effort to help them learn the importance of time management. While they'll be given one period on **Monday, Sept. 17th** to complete the assessment; they may do all or some of the work ahead of time if they wish. Students who come to class with the work completed will have the class period free to read their new choice books (which they are very excited about!)

We also spent time this week exploring nonfiction text features as we read/discussed a relevant news story from Scope Scholastic highlighting the hope that has come in the years following the tragic events of 9/11. The article focused a young woman who was in middle school in NYC during these events. Over time she has healed and grown to do great things in an effort to give back. We made wonderful connections between her story, former President Obama's call for a 9/11 National Day of Service, and the PAGs work in Slacker.

Reminders: 1) If you haven't yet completed the optional parent homework, there is still time to write or email me! 2) Please be sure to follow our class on Twitter & Instagram @MrsPeterson6.

English Language Arts - Mrs. Creonte

In English class this week all students completed their first writing piece, a biopoem. The poems came out beautifully and are hanging in our classroom for you to read at Open House on the 27th! Toward the end of the week we spent some time working with the summer reading novel, Slacker. As a class we discussed the story and brainstormed the characters using descriptive traits. Then, on their own students took on the point of view of their favorite character by describing "themselves" and their beliefs.

In reading classes we have been hard at work going through the structured reading program benchmark assessments in order to find each child's reading level as well as reading strengths and weaknesses. By the end of next week you child will be placed in the appropriate structured reading class with a specialized focus on his/her reading needs.

English Language Arts - Ms. Boudette

This week we dove into our first short story, *The All American Slurp*. We read the story together as a class while practicing strategies for active reading. Students enjoyed taking on the role of a "good reader" and thinking out loud as they clarified, visualized, evaluated, connected, questioned, predicted, and inferred. Ask your student what their favorite active reading strategy is! Students also completed their summer reading test this week, where they wrote three essays to demonstrate their knowledge of the summer reading book, *Slacker*. It was a challenge in time management for students, because they had the option to begin the test at home and complete some work in advance. This was your child's first formal writing assessment in ELA. Next week, we will get started honing specific writing skills.

Almost every student has now delivered an "All About Me" presentation, and it has been wonderful to hear what matters to your children. Almost every student mentioned you, their families, as one of the most important things in their lives. I have also enjoyed reading your perspectives on your children through the "Million Words or Less" assignment. Thank you so much for sharing! I would still love to hear from you if you haven't already replied. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you need a copy of the assignment (or if you have any other questions).

Reminders: 1) Please send in your optional homework assignment, "A Million Words or Less"!

Cluster Fun Facts: This week we would love to share our favorite books!

Ms. Boudett: the Harry Potter Series 📖 Mrs. Peterson: A Tree Grows in Brooklyn 📖 Mrs. Kissane: Webster's Dictionary
Mrs. Rodgers: The Thief Lord 📖 Mrs. Creonte: Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See? 📖 Ms. Hanes: The Phantom Tollbooth
Ms. DiTroia: Out of My Mind 📖 Mr. Maillis: 📖 Ms. Schettino: