

# The Buzz

## October 19, 2018



It has been an exhausting week here for many who have been hooked on the Red Sox League Championship Series, but we are happy to report that students are still working hard despite lack of sleep.

We have even more excitement coming up as we prepare for our first field trip of the year. Students in Mrs. Peterson's Gryffindor class and Mrs. Creonte's English class will join Cluster A this coming **Monday, Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>** for our Gillette Stadium STEM field trip. All other Honeybees will attend the trip with Cluster C on the following week on **Mon. Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>**. Permission slips went home last week and are due back now. If the trip fee is a problem, please don't worry and contact your student's homeroom teacher. We are excited to put our math and science knowledge to the test as we complete challenges throughout Gillette with out teams.

Excitement is building for the first school dance that takes place on **Friday, Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>**. A code of conduct letter will be sent home with your child to read over and sign. This letter *must accompany* your child to the dance. If he/she does not have this letter, he/she will not be allowed to enter. Please make sure that you read and go over the rules for the dance with your child. There is a costume contest, but masks and "weapons" that might be part of the costume are not allowed. The dance runs from 6:30 until 8:30 PM, and we ask that your child be picked up promptly at the conclusion. Students should not be lingering around the building once the dance is over.

On **Wednesday, Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>** we will celebrate our Annual Character Fashion Show during E and F block (12:30-2:30) in the auditorium. Students are encouraged to dress as their favorite book character and will have time to get into costume (unless they want to come dressed for the day) after lunch. We have explained the fashion show in ELA Classes. Homemade costumes and those that show creativity (think *Greg*/Diary of a Wimpy Kid in swim shorts and shirt wrapped in toilet paper) are often the ones that get the most attention from our audience. Students are encouraged to think not only about how they visualize the character, but also how they could represent them best by showing a specific situation from their book or using props that would help identify them. We don't want you to spend any money in this process; instead we hope you will get creative with what you have. Most of all we want to have fun, get excited about our reading, and see some awesome book characters represented.

**Be on the lookout:** MCAS reports from last spring were sent home with students this past Wed. 10/17. Please be sure to ask students to see them.

Grades for the first term close in a few weeks on **Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>**. The first term report cards will be sent home the following week. Please encourage students to follow up now on missing or incomplete assignments. Additionally, students who feel they may need extra support or help should speak to us so we can make a time to work before or after school. We also have many after school homework help opportunities right here at McDevitt, like our Tues./Thur. Tutoring, which is absolutely free! Please email us for further details.

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

- Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> - Gillette "Hall of Fame" STEM Field Trip (Students in our cluster will be split between these two dates)
- Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> - School Dance 6:30 - 8:30 PM in the Cafe
- Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> - Grade 6 Character Fashion Show
- Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> - Friday Parent Coffee Talk 8:00-9:00 AM
- Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> - Spanish Language Parent Coffee Talk 8:00-9:00 AM and Grades for Term 1 close
- Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> - Report Card for Term 1 will be sent home
- Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> - Half Day (Students will be dismissed at 11:15)
- Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> - No School (Thanksgiving Vacation)
- Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> - Early Release Day for all schools. McDevitt will be dismissed at 12:30.

## Math - Ms. DiTroia & Mr. Maillis

The past two weeks, we have been learning all about unit rates. Last week, students put their physical skills to the test by speed walking down the hallway and measuring how far they could walk in 5 seconds. Each student calculated his or her speed as a unit rate, in feet per second, and then represented this relationship using a table, graph and equation. Be sure to ask your student about his or her walking speed! This week, we continued to practice finding unit rates, along with measurement conversions. On Thursday, students took a quiz on Rates. They should expect to see their results from these quizzes some time next week, and students will again have the opportunity to make Quiz Corrections. Check in with your student next week to make sure he or she is taking advantage of the opportunity to make quiz corrections if needed.

Looking ahead, our next topic will be all about Percent. We will first talk about what "percent" means and how percents are used in the real world. Then, students will work on solving problems that involve percent, using familiar strategies like double number lines and tables.

**Announcement:** The Math Olympiad program at McDevitt will be starting soon! The first session will be on Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup> from 2:30-3:30 after school. If your student is interested in joining our Math Olympiad team and has not yet received a form for it, please tell them to ask their math teacher for a form (or email us directly).

## Social Studies - Ms. Hanes

We have continued to explore how Early People survived during the Paleolithic Era (also called the Old Stone Age). This week students practiced finding the central idea in multiple sources about the Paleolithic hunters and gatherers. Later in the week we explored the Neolithic Age (New Stone Age) and discussed a "ground-breaking" discovery made during this time. Without this discovery, life would be very different today. Curious? Ask your child to explain! At the end of this week, students wrote their second claim-evidence-reasoning essay about this amazing discovery.

Finally, it was so wonderful meeting all of you at Open House. I was so busy that I forgot to thank everyone for your generous donations of tissues and disinfecting wipes this year. We are going to be all set and germ-free this year!

**Upcoming Events in Social Studies: Test on Early Humans: Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup>.** Students will receive a practice/study guide on Tuesday. I have also posted a set of vocabulary terms on Quizlet for students who wish to study on the Chromebook right away. We will spend a full class period reviewing all the material the day before. Have a wonderful weekend!

## Science - Mrs. Rodgers

As part of our unit on The Cell, students explored what it meant for something to be alive. We even watched a short clip from the 1931 movie Frankenstein, in which the monster comes alive! Next we moved on to a little science history and created a timeline of the discovery of the cell and development of Cell Theory. It's hard to imagine a time before microscopes when people did not know about bacteria or red blood cells. Now move on to studying the parts of a cell and their functions. Next week students will create a "Cell City" in which they compare the functions of cells parts to the functions of a "city" of their choosing. Students may opt to present their knowledge in a poster or a Google Slide show. A description of the assignment, a checklist and rubric will be sent home next week.

This project and a study guide will help prepare them for a short test on the cell and its parts on Oct. 12 or 15.

## English Language Arts - Mrs. Peterson

Students in 126 wrapped up their Slacker work with a discussion of themes found in the story. Among a few important messages, we've carried the themes of courage and transformation from that novel straight into our first official unit centered around the text Scorpions by Walter Dean Myers. Throughout our reading of this classic text focused on friendship, family and the need to make good choices we will continue to read from nonfiction texts, poems and other texts with similar themes. Students have already read about Malala, discussed a short story called "Eleven," and engaged in work based on an essay by Helen Keller. We've read up to Chapter 5 of Scorpions together and worked in teams to complete a KWL chart to map our goals during reading, created note-taking posters to help us learn about the characters and map their journeys, and had a great class discuss and activity focused on conflict (ask them about internal conflict vs. external conflict) as the character was faced with a decision to choose between what is right and what is wrong. Students put themselves in his shoes and did a great job of creating a list of pros and cons while engaging in thoughtful discussion about real life issues.

Next week, we'll continue with our unit, review genre and take a quiz on that topic, and then begin to work with some of the many literary techniques that we'll be learning about this year. We will locate examples of these in our texts and work on mimicking them in our own writing to make stories more detailed and vivid.

**Reminders:** 1) Students will NOT have a reading log this week as both classes have earned a "free pass" in our House Cup Challenge. 2) Students should be working on book reports that are due on Fri. Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>. They have both hard copies and a digital copy of the assignment, but are free to come to see me for extra help every Mon. or Fri. mornings at 7:30. 3) Follow us on Twitter & Instagram @MrsPeterson6.

## English Language Arts - Mrs. Creonte

All students have completed their narrative writing pieces. I am proud of the effort and hard work students put into this first official writing assignment. This week they also participated in the first District Determined Measure, which was a practice MCAS reading and questions, to assess how the students perform before any high stakes reading and writing instruction in grade 6. I will use these results to inform my instruction and focus on specific areas of need as related to reading and writing for these students. As the week progressed we continued our reading and discussions of Hatchet focusing on the elements of fiction. Ask your children about the protagonist, Brian Robeson, and see if they can describe his character traits.

## English Language Arts - Ms. Boudett

Happy October, families of Room 140! It was lovely to see so many of you at the Open House last week. It's hard to believe that we have already wrapped up the first month of school. We have spent the first month practicing active reading skills, increasing writing stamina through low-stakes journal prompts, and reviewing some grammar and vocabulary that we will build upon throughout the year. Your students have also each composed a creative writing piece from the perspective of an object that hates summer. Not only did these essays allow students to practice writing persuasively from the first person point of view, but they also gave students a chance to show their senses of humor! Students submitted work on Google Classroom, so feel free to ask your student for a peek.

In the coming week, we will begin reading our first class novel, Scorpions by Walter Dean Myers. As I mentioned on back to school night, this is a mature story that teaches lessons about friendship, courage, and decision making. We will be reading the novel aloud in class and discussing as we read. Students will complete writing assignments partially outside of class, so each student will be responsible for bringing his/her/their copy of the book to class every day. Reading class novels is the heart of our curriculum, and we are all excited to get started!

Reminders: 1) Please remind your student that it is **always** part of their ELA homework to read for 20 minutes every night. 2) To be prepared for ELA class, students **always** need a charged Chromebook, a choice reading book, and their copy of the class novel.