

# The Buzz

October 26, 2018



It was another exciting week here in 6B. Half of our cluster started the week celebrating the Patriots with our STEM field trip to Gillette and then we continued to work hard and learn while cheering for the Red Sox by night! On top of all that we had some fun learning in the dark yesterday during our two-hour power outage! Students were awesome, and we continued our day and our learning with little interruption despite the outage.

We are very excited for the rest of our cluster to attend the Gillette trip this coming **Monday, Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>**. The trip begins with a visit to the press box where students are lead through a math-based activity that allows them to become the team owners they create a new team name and logo, select a team according to a specific budget and use remaining funds to choose from a menu of field improvements. Students learn how to handle the accounting and how to read pages of data to help them best choose which players would give them the most bang for their big bucks! Following lunch break students have the chance to explore the Hall of Fame in a scavenger hunt style activity where they work through various interactive displays that use math, physics and biology to help students explore the game in a different way. THANK YOU to the many families who pitched in a little extra to help defray the cost for this trip. We know this will be a trip that students will remember!

Students who are attending the trip this Monday should plan to dress warm and bring a coat/hat. Students who already attended the trip will remain at school with Mrs. Creonte & Mrs. Peterson and complete the work they missed during their trip.

Excitement continues to build for the school dance tonight, **Friday, Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>**. A code of conduct letter went home this week. This letter must be signed and brought with 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. 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 & 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. 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.

Grades for the first term close in two 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. 26<sup>th</sup> - School Dance 6:30 - 8:30 PM in the Cafe
- Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> - Gillette "Hall of Fame" STEM Field Trip (Students in our cluster will be split between these two dates)
- 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

This week, we started our new unit on Fraction Division. We've been focusing on creating visual models to represent fraction division in real world problems. The visual models help students to reach a high level of conceptual understanding. We also connected the visual models to the procedure of "multiplying by the reciprocal" (this may be something parents are more familiar with!). Ask your student to show you some examples of the problems we have been solving in class, so they can practice explaining how the visual model connects to the procedure. Moving forward, we will continue to practice solving problems involving division of fractions, mixed numbers and improper fractions, as we work on becoming more fluent with the procedure.

**Reminder:** Students will be taking their first Math ANet Assessment of the year next week on Thursday (November 1<sup>st</sup>). This assessment will cover everything students have learned so far this year (Ratios, Rates, Percent and Fraction Division). The test is online, so it is very important that students bring a fully charged Chromebook to school on this day!

## Social Studies - Ms. Hanes

This week we began our exploration of ancient Mesopotamia. Students looked at how the geography of Mesopotamia (modern day Iraq, Syria, and Turkey) shaped how the civilization grew. We learned about the flooding of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers as well as the brilliant innovations that were created to control these rivers and make the land more conducive for farming. Next week we will continue to explore the amazing Mesopotamian innovations, including writing and the wheel. Students have a set of new vocabulary words posted on Google Classroom and Quizlet. Have a great weekend and a happy and safe Halloween next week!

## Science - Mrs. Rodgers

Our unit on Cells is a wrap! Students have submitted their Cell City Analogies and observed different types of cells - their own cheek cells, onion skin cells, plus prepared slide of plant cells, muscle cells, brain cells, bone cell and more. I hope to keep the microscopes around throughout our next unit on Human Body Systems so we can look at difference in tissues.

Our next unit is on 6 different Human Body systems and how they work together to carry out all the essential functions of life.

## English Language Arts - Mrs. Peterson

I'm pretty sure students are intrigued by our first novel based on the moans and groans every time we stop reading! Students are eager to find out what will happen to our protagonist and his friends. Much of our writing this week has focused on symbolism, character transformations and growth. As always, we've worked hard to find specific evidence in the story to back up our claims and we're trying to incorporate clear, accurate quotations and paraphrase to support these claims.

I am working my way through book reports for the Gryffindor and Ravenclaw classes and I am pleased with the both the effort and variety of books that students are reading for their choice reading. Please be sure that you are seeing the weekly reading log every weekend. During the week students should be logging their reading time and the pages read. Each weekend, students are expected to complete a brief written assignment utilizing two specific reading strategies and incorporating specific details from their story. Parents should be signing these weekly before they are turned in Monday and asking students questions about their choice books.

A huge *thank you* to the families that purchased books through our October Scholastic book order. Students were amazed at the number of new books we were able to purchase for our classroom because of the points your orders earned for our class. We're excited to get them all labeled this week and start signing them out! All totaled we have 22 new books to add to our shelves. I am beyond grateful!

**Reminders:** 1) Students should be completing Reading Log #4 this weekend. 2) Students should have choice books with them every day during school and night. They should be with class supplies and NOT in lockers! 3) Follow us on Twitter & Instagram @MrsPeterson6

## English Language Arts - Mrs. Creonte

We started writing with colors in English class this week. This is a systematic type of writing that matches a color to each writing technique in an open response essay. The color-coded system gives students a visual that is easy to remember when attacking MCAS style text based essay questions. The students were introduced to the colors, practiced highlighting various essays, discussed and discussed an open response together as a class. Next week they will independently began to practiced writing and highlighting their own essay based on our readings of *Hatchet*.

Students will be quizzed on the five elements of fiction and how they relate to *Hatchet* on Tuesday. There is a study guide in the homework folder and a Quizlet can be found on Google classroom.

**REMINDER:** Three entries and week 5 of the reading log are due on Monday.

## English Language Arts - Ms. Boudett

Here in Room 140, students have continued to enjoy reading, discussing, and writing about *Scorpions*. I have been impressed with students' abilities to dive deeply into the novel and support their ideas with evidence from the text. This week, we have focused our attention on the internal conflict that is a result of having to make a tough decision. We worked with the idea of a "crossroads" and we brainstormed potential consequences of certain choices. Next week, we will pause our reading and each student will closely analyze one character from the novel. At home, you will see your students working to make sure that all of their written responses are meeting expectations, because they will be turning in a big chunk of them soon. As always, please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns, and encourage your students to advocate for themselves as well!

**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.

Happy Halloween to those of you  
celebrating...  
From, Matthew Hanes



**Don't forget to charge your device each night  
& bring your choice books to school.**