

# The Buzz

## October 5, 2018



It was a short, but exciting day here at McDevitt. To celebrate the start of the Red Sox playoffs students and staff celebrated with a Spirit Day and dressed to show support for our home team.

Today was also an early release day and the midpoint of Term 1. Students are bringing home their first progress reports today and spent time in D block classes reviewing how to read them and how to use them as a tool for both catching up on work and setting goals for continued success. Please be sure to review the reports with students, sign the acknowledgment slips and return them to HR teachers. If you have questions about missing work or grades, feel free to email those teachers directly. It is also important to note that since our Gradebooks are digital you can check in on grades anytime through Portals. While progress report cards are current, new grades will be entered as early as the start of next week. With that in mind please know that those grades will fluctuate with each and every assignment throughout the term. If you are not yet connected to the Parent Portal, please email or contact your child's HR teacher and they will help you get started.

Additionally, we squeezed in a few minutes today for students to see the Renaissance program in full swing. Our sixth grade sat in of a few minutes of our annual Rally celebrating our last term of the 2017-18 school year for current 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Students who meet the specific criteria for attendance, behavior, course grades and school spirit (the ABCs) will be eligible for the same prizes and special recognition at the end of each upcoming 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.

It was so great to see and meet so many of our Honeybee families at Open House Night last week. We hope you will continue to follow our classes on social media, in The Buzz, and contact us with any questions or concerns. We encourage your involvement throughout the year and welcome your support as we work with you to set your child up for a successful academic career.

The Track Club, Art Club and STEM club all kicked off this week and students are invited to join in. Details can be found online on the McDevitt Website or students can ask their teachers for details. We also have Bentley College tutors available every Tues. and Thur. to assist students in an afterschool homework club. If you want more info, please reach out to Mrs. Rodgers. This is a great opportunity for students to stay after school and get work completed before heading home. Students who take the bus regularly can take advantage of the 3:30 late bus if they stay for the program so transportation shouldn't be a problem.

Please note, that we typically send The Buzz home on Fridays; however, we will not send a Buzz on weeks that are shortened due to holiday breaks & vacations. For that reason, there will NOT be a Buzz next Friday since there is a Monday holiday. That said, please note that there is no school on Monday Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> in observance of Columbus Day. We will send our next edition of The Buzz on Fri. Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>.

Most importantly, next week students will be bringing home detailed information about our upcoming field trip to Gillette Stadium where we will be building community by participating in STEM challenges and projects. The permission slip will outline details and cost, but please note that the trip includes a select choice of lunch provided by Red Robin. They are very accommodating with allergies, but if you have allergy concerns and would like to inquire for more specific details, please feel free to reach out to Mrs. Peterson. Our cluster will be split into two groups with some students attending the trip on Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> and others attending on Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>. Students will be notified of their dates and it will be on the permission forms.

Lastly, students will also bring home information about our Battle of the Books Reading Challenge program which we would love for parents to review and sign. They will also bring home information about our Book Character Fashion Show event taking place during the school day on Wed, Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>. Please be sure to ask them about it, encourage them to participate with us, and join them as they start brainstorming creative and fun ways to bring their favorite book characters to life.

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

Oct. 5th - Friday Parent Coffee Talk 8:00-9:00 AM & "Baseball Bonanza" Spirit Day

Oct. 8th - No School (in observance of Columbus Day)

Oct. 12th - Spanish Language Parent Coffee Talk 8:00-9:00 AM

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. 31<sup>st</sup> - Grade 6 Character Fashion Show (details coming soon)

## 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 image 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

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 image 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 - Ms. Boudette

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.