

The Buzz

November 5, 2018



This week we enter the homestretch of Term 1! **Grades for the term will close this Friday, Nov. 9th**. Students should be sure to spend some time this week organizing binders, checking in with teachers, and reviewing grades on Portals to be sure all work is passed in and ready to be graded. Please note: grades visible in Portals on or after Nov. 9th may NOT be the final grades for Term 1. Teachers will have a few days to adjust grades and add in any late assignments before grades are confirmed so you will see some changes. **Official grade reports will go home/be visible on Friday, Nov. 17th**.

Yesterday we set our clocks back one hour. We will gain an hour of sleep, but it will be getting darker earlier each afternoon; another sign that winter is just around the corner. Students staying after or walking home from afterschool activities & sports should be especially careful to wear light, reflective clothing and to use crosswalks and walk lights as they may now be headed home after dusk.

There is no school this Tuesday, November 6th. It Election Day, but it is also a professional development day for the teachers in the Waltham school system. Therefore, all schools will be closed.

Veterans Day will be observed **Monday, November 12th** and this is also a no school day. On this day we honor and thank all those who have chosen to serve our country, especially any of you who have served in the armed forces.

Our Character Fashion Show will be celebrated this Thursday, Nov. 8th. We are so excited to see all the book characters that students will bring to life and officially kick off our "Battle of the Books" program so that we can reward reader and helps student set smart reading goals as they discover new and exciting stories.

Since we have shortened weeks both this week and next, our next Buzz Newsletter will go home Friday, Nov. 16th along with report cards! So "bee" on the lookout to see what the Honeybees have been up too.

We are starting to notice that some students are coming to class unprepared for the day. As a general reminder student are expected to have the following items with them for the day:

- A binder that contains the class subject work, an agenda, a homework folder, and a pencil case*
 - Pencil cases must have a pencil sharpener, a yellow highlighter, and ear buds
- A choice reading book
- A fully charged Chromebook (Please get in a habit of charging them every single night)

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

Tuesday, Nov. 6th - No School (Election Day & Teacher Prof. Day)

Thursday, Nov. 8th - Grade 6 Character Fashion Show

Friday, Nov. 9th - Spanish Language Parent Coffee Talk 8:00-9:00 AM and Grades for Term 1 close

Monday, Nov. 11th - No School (Veteran's Day)

Friday, Nov. 16th - Report Card for Term 1 will be sent home and our next edition of the Buzz will be sent

Wednesday, Nov. 21st - Half Day (Students will be dismissed at 11:15)

Thursday, Nov. 22nd - Friday, Nov. 23rd - No School (Thanksgiving Vacation)

Friday, Nov. 30th - Early Release Day for all schools. McDevitt will be dismissed at 12:30.

Math - Ms. DiTroia & Mr. Maillis

Last week, students worked hard to prepare for their first ANet assessment of the year, which they took on Thursday and Friday. Earlier in the week, we worked on solving Fraction Division word problems. Then we reviewed the topics of Ratios, Rates and Percent, which were also covered on the ANet. We are so impressed with all of the hard work that students put into preparing and taking the ANet assessment! We are excited to see the results and determine which topics our students have mastered, and which topics we may need more practice on.

This coming week, we will wrap up our Fraction Division unit with a project. Students will be asked to write their own Fraction Division story problem, and then solve it using multiple strategies. They will show their work creatively on a poster or with an app on their Chromebooks. After this, we will move on to our next unit, which will be on Whole Number Concepts. We will start this unit by reviewing factors and multiples, and then we will learn about Greatest Common Factors and Least Common Multiples.

Reminder: Grades close for Term 1 at the end of this week! If your student is missing any work for math or wants to do Test Corrections for the most recent test, they should turn that in by the end of this week.

Science - Mrs. Rodgers

This week we still be studying the Skeletal System and the ways it helps the body beyond just providing the muscles with something to pull against. We'll look at some real bones (the kind you buy at Petco for dogs to chew) to see the marrow and stored fat. Using a microscope, we'll compare bone cells and muscles cells. Students will have some vocabulary homework throughout the week, either using the Quizlet app or their own flashcards.

Social Studies - Ms. Hanes

This week we continued our exploration of ancient Mesopotamia with a focus on the first civilization to settle there- the Sumerians. Students completed their first **D.B.Q. (document-based question)** assessment. They were given four documents about ancient Mesopotamia that they had never seen before, answered questions about the documents, and then used their answers to write an evidence-based open response essay. Results of this assessment will be used to plan future lessons about essay writing and answering document-based questions related to our upcoming units. Because this was a formative assessment, it will not count as a grade.

At the end of the week, we focused on the world's oldest writing system invented by the Sumerians- cuneiform. Students learned about how this form of writing was created, which members of society had the privilege of learning to read and write, and what was typically written down. Next week students will try to write in cuneiform and learn about the various jobs and social classes of Sumer.

English Language Arts - Mrs. Peterson

We are only a few chapters away from the end of our class novel, but the conflicts - both internal and external - still seem to be mounting for our protagonist. This week we'll continue to examine conflict, mood, and tone as we read searching for examples and discussing the author's purpose. (Speaking of mood and tone, we took a short break this week to explore some eerie tales such as a Sherlock Holmes mystery and a play version of Frankenstein! Be sure to ask your students about these spooky, and beautifully written stories.)

Just a reminder that students should be reading each night for at least 20 min. and logging both reading time and number of 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. Be sure to ask them about their books! They are reading some really cool novels and they are really excited about them!

This week I will be sending home Scholastic book orders that will be due on Nov. 16th. You are under no obligation to order, but often Scholastic offers the best prices and new, noteworthy choices for young teen readers. Because of the books you purchased in October, we earned 22 new books that students started checking out this week from our classroom library. Please note that in mid Dec. the school will also host a live Book Fair in our lobby. Details for that will be coming soon. Purchases at the fair help to raise money for new books in our school media center. For that reason, I will NOT send home an order form in December.

Reminders: 1) Students should be completing Reading Log #6 this week. 2) Element of Fiction Book Reports are due on Nov. 16th for my Hufflepuff class only. 3) Follow us on Twitter & Instagram @MrsPeterson6

English Language Arts - Mrs. Creonte

We spent a great deal of time last week reading and discussing *Hatchet*. Our focus was on characterization. Students spent time searching for quotes Gary Paulsen used to show character traits of the protagonist, Brian. We are now in the process of writing our first practice with the writing with colors text base essay writing. Throughout this week students will continue describing Brian and finding relevant and specific quotes to support their thinking as well as explain their thinking using reasoning. The character fashion show will be on Thursday, November 8th. Please help your child with his/her costume for this fun 6th grade dress up day!

English Language Arts - Ms. Boudett

The quarter closes on Friday, November 9, and students are working hard to finish the quarter strong. Last week, students worked in groups, and each group collaborated to create a poster describing the traits of one character from *Scorpions*. This week, students are composing their first text-based essays, which will analyze the characters from their posters. Students are independently writing these essays **in class** so that we can develop specific skills together. There is no reason why students should be working on these character essays at home (unless it is Thursday night before the deadline of Friday, November 9). Please work with your child to check Plus Portals and confirm that all ELA work is turned in. If you have any questions, please reach out or encourage your child to come and talk to me.

Reminders: 1) The quarter ends on November 9! I am available every day before school at 7:30 if students need extra support before grades are submitted. 2) Students eligible for quiz corrections (80 or below) should schedule a time before or after school to meet with me to improve their grades.



**Don't forget to charge your
device every night
&
keep your choice book
with you at all times!**