

# Clipper News

**Lois Bowden**  
Principal

**Heather Wilson**  
Dean of Students





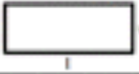
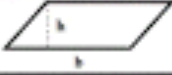

## December 2016

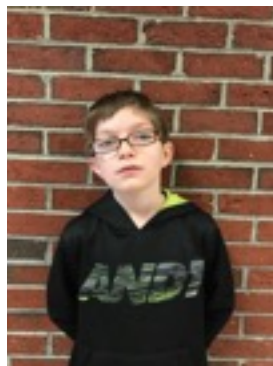
### 5th/6th Grade Math News from Mrs. Lewis

Students have been working hard during this month learning the different formulas for perimeter and area of many different polygons including triangles, quadrilaterals, and other regular and irregular polygons. We will continue our work to include finding volume of cubes, prisms, and pyramids.

We have finished our review of the properties of addition and multiplication with an emphasis on the Distributive Property. Please ask to see your child's math work. You will probably notice that many of the papers have highlighted dots on them. The dots indicate an incorrect answer and students know to try those problems again. Your child will continue working on the paper until they master the concept being taught. Sometimes this takes many days with your child receiving additional help from me, one of our student helpers, or Mr. Durant. Please congratulate them when you see how hard they are working in math class.

If at all possible, students need ear buds or head phones for class. I have many tutorials, lessons, and videos students may listen to when gaining understanding of concepts. Thanks for all your help and support. Happy Holidays!

| Name          | Area Formula             | Shape   |
|---------------|--------------------------|---|
| Triangle      | $\frac{b \cdot h}{2}$    |  |
| Square        | $s^2$                    |  |
| Rectangle     | $l \cdot w$              |  |
| Parallelogram | $b \cdot h$              |  |
| Trapezoid     | $\frac{(b_1 + b_2)h}{2}$ |  |



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS from the Health and Physical Education department.**

P.E. Students of the month are Ava Wedge (left) and Gerry Mahoney (right).

-Mr. Peterson

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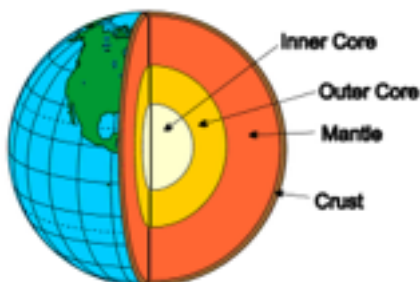
## What's New in 8th Grade ELA

Happy holidays, everyone. Students in 8th grade have been very busy writing and revising a letter about literature. We will be submitting these to the national "Letters About Literature" contest. Also, everyone is working hard at our vocabulary challenge. Using the online program Verbocity, students are working in groups to learn and retain new language, and our vocabulary retention rates have skyrocketed to 96% average with no less than twenty new words learned per week per student! Our top teams have been learning around thirty-five new words per student each week, and retaining them. That's pretty impressive. Everyone is reading a science fiction book, and we will be doing a project on those next. Watch for work on points of view in literature as well as a unit on grammar that will

## News from the Mad Scientist Mrs. Maroon-Grade 5

Students in Mrs. Maroon's science classes are spending the last few days before vacation sharing their Earth Layers projects! There are some very unique and tasty models for all to see.

Please remember that the Rocks Pamphlet for this quarter's Above and Beyond is due on January 20, 2017.



## Math News from Grade 5- Mrs. Maroon

Students are flying through multiplication and division! Please help your child practice basic multiplication facts during the holiday break. Students continue to practice mental math skills daily. Our next focus will be on problem solving and mean, median, and mode.



## Art News from Mr. Tompkins

As we head into the Christmas break, the first semester students are wrapping up their year in art. Painters are completing Georgia O'Keefe flowers and Artist's Style paintings. Drawing students are working in two point perspective and creating synthetic animal textures using colored pencils. Sculpture classes are making cardboard topographic forms and are printmaking. It has been a great first half of the year.

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## **Study: Math Success Aided by Knowing Facts, Freeing Working Memory**

Dr. Kathy Mann, working for the National Institutes of Health, has discovered that children's brains reorganize as they are learning math. That means experience does matter and drilling children at home on simple addition and multiplication really could pay off in the long run, says Lauren Neergaard writing for the Associated Press.



Children start making the switch from counting in their heads or using fingers to “fact retrieval” at about 8 or 9 years-old. How well they make the transition from this to memory-based problem-solving will ultimately predict their math mastery. If a child does not make the transition well, they can have difficulties or a slow pace in their math learning down the line.

The question then becomes, what makes the transition difficult for some children?

That is what Stanford researchers wanted to know, and they began the quest by using a brain-scanning MRI on 28 children while they solved simple addition problems. When the children saw a math calculation such as  $6+1=7$ , they were instructed to push a button to signal whether the answer was correct or incorrect.

What the researchers were looking for was how quickly they responded and which regions of the brain lit up when they responded. The scientists met with the students again and observed the children to see if they moved their lips or counted on their fingers and compared the brain data. The students were tested again about one year later. As the subjects got older, their answers were based more on memory, the answers were faster and more accurate, and the changes showed in the brain.

The part of the brain that relays information when new data come in – short-term working memory – and then sends it to the longer-term memory area where it is stored for retrieval is the hippocampus. “The stronger the connections, the greater each individual’s ability to retrieve facts from memory,” said Dr. Vinod Menon, a psychiatry professor at Stanford and the study’s senior author.

When Menon put 20 adult and 20 adolescents in the MRI he found that the hippocampus hardly came into play, and answers were practically automatic from long-term storage. The brain becomes much more efficient over time. When your brain can solve simple math quickly and easily, it has more working memory free to process more difficult math.

“The study provides new evidence that this experience with math actually changes the hippocampal patterns, or the connections. They become more stable with skill development,” she said. “So learning your addition and multiplication tables and having them in rote memory helps.”

(Taken from Education News)

**-Mrs. Duncklee**

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The music department is fresh off our successful Holiday evening concert and performance for the school and would like to say Happy Holidays!



## Grade 5 Social Studies from Mrs. Larrabee

Students have enjoyed participating in the Pilgrim simulations and have learned a great deal about Plymouth Colony and early colonization. Soon, students will begin learning about the 13 Colonies and our nation's early government.

## Grade 5 ELA from Mrs. Larrabee

After much consideration 5th graders did not complete a book project for December. Rather, focus has been on summarizing main ideas and how to use guided outlines to help with this process. Book projects will continue in January and students will be learning how to use informational text, as well as learning about a particular topic. The project for January will consist of creating a board game using the information from the informational text that is chosen. Assignment sheets will be sent home with students so be sure to ask about this project as it will be a lot of fun!

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## 6th Grade Science News from Mrs. Lewis

Students have been doing an outstanding job reporting the weather during morning announcements as part of our Weather Unit. Each morning one or two students meet in the CMS library to research the weather and put together a script to read over our school's intercom. Staff and students have mentioned how much they enjoy these reports and how professional the reporters are. The kids have far surpassed my expectations of this activity. Keep up the great work!

The Above and Beyond project for High Honors in Science this quarter was given out to students about two weeks ago. Please ask to see this packet and have fun with your child making a backyard Weather Station. This project is due on or before Jan. 11th.

We will be studying cloud types and making posters of the clouds we study. If each student could bring in a small baggie of cotton balls, it would be helpful. Thanks!

I thought you might like to read an example of the RAFTs I mentioned in the November Clipper News. Enjoy!

## 6/7/8 Social Studies from Mr. Reed

Students spent the month of December focused on learning the differences between five major world religions. The faiths we studied were Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. Next month's seminar choices will be a unit on war for the morning classes, and a unit on US regions and climate. Please make sure to ask your student about what they are learning next as the new year begins!

## AWESOME ATOMS

By Marcelino B.Chavez

Do you like riding your bike? Do you like eating Chinese food? Do you like playing video games? Without me, you couldn't do any of these things!

Hi, my name is atom. My role in the universe is by far the most important. I make up everything, from your candy, to the planet Neptune, to you and your family and pretty much everything else around you. The way I do it is I can make specific types of myself called elements. Elements are made of only one type of me! Iron is an element. And then the elements I make can combine to make compounds. Compounds can make even more types of matter! For example, your house is made of what? Wood. The chemical formula (or the ratio of elements in one molecule is C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>6</sub>). To make that simpler, it has six carbon elements, twelve hydrogen elements, and six oxygen elements in one molecule of wood.

Hungry? Don't forget to try my tasty compound, spaghetti! Don't forget the compounds cheese and olive oil! Pour the olive oil to saturate the pasta and the cheese to flavor it. Try it with a side of salad served best with the mixture salad dressing.

Your food is made of atoms. Your bike is made of atoms. You yourself is made of atoms! Pretty much EVERYTHING is made of atoms! That is why I am the most important. Elements, compounds, and molecules are all made of me so I am the most important because NOTHING would exist without me! Not even the paper you're reading, or my pen to write these pages, or your hands and eyes to pick up the paper TO READ THIS IN THE FIRST PLACE!

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## News from the Civil Rights Team

The CMS Civil Rights Team helps make the school a positive place that no student will be afraid of. We are here to be helpful, caring, and brave to accomplish our goal of preventing harassment. As part of this mission, we have once again sponsored a door-decorating contest for the advisory challenges here at CMS. Each homeroom was asked to create a design that best represents the culture and winter traditions of the students and staff member of that advisory, while also including the homeroom's mascot for the year. The doors looked great!

## News from 6th Grade Social Studies with Miss Worcester

Students in Miss Worcester's social studies class have been busy learning about the 7 continents and their most important countries, their population, climate, and the animals that live there. We will continue to explore, after the holidays, the unique landforms, cultures, and traditions of each continent. Students will be able to recognize how landforms and climate affect how people live, work and play. We will continue to memorize the 50 states in the next month. Most students already know MOST of them through a chant we are learning in class!



*Mrs. Mitchell's door (above) is looking festive for the homeroom challenge.*

## Seventh Grade ELA with Miss Worcester

Students in Miss Worcester's ELA class are just finishing a persuasive essay where they had to take a stance on the impact of technology on children and teens. The students' essays exceeded my expectations in creating thoughtful thesis statements that conveyed their particular point of view. Seventh graders have also been working to create Works Cited pages that will accompany their essays to show the sources of their research.

Students will be completing a small poetry project before the holidays where they have to analyze a poem of their choice and memorize it in order to recite it in front of the class!

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## Updates from JMG

### Giving Tree 2016

The CMS and CPS communities stepped up big time again this holiday season to support the Giving Tree. A WICKED HUGE thank you for your generosity! Over 120 items were collected. This project is "great because we learn about the importance of giving and it also feels good to help people in our community," stated eighth grader Brady Wharton. Happy Holidays from JMG!

### Upcoming Events:

Blood Drive on Tuesday January 24 from 1-6 at the South China American Legion. Go to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) to make an appointment or contact [rsweeney@jmg.org](mailto:rsweeney@jmg.org) for more information.

China Community Winter Fun Day - Saturday, February 18, from 11-3 at the China Lake Camp Conference Center. Join us for a day of sliding and other outdoor activities like snow shoeing, cross country skiing and more on groomed trails. The signature event of the day will be a cardboard sled competition. Sleds made out of duct tape and cardboard only permitted. Lunch will also be offered. Hope to see you there!



*Gift from the Giving Tree are displayed above. JMG collected a total of 120 gifts this year!*

*Students (right) proudly stand by the Giving Tree.*



*Students (left) create tags for Giving Tree gifts.*