

Clipper News

Lois Bowden
Principal

Heather Wilson
Dean of Students

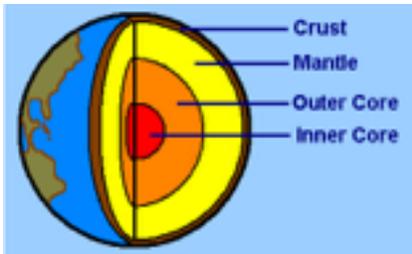


January 2017

Science News from the Mad Scientist Mrs. Maroon

During our study of the earth ,students demonstrated understanding of the 3 main layers of the Earth and their relationship to each other . They created and shared with their fifth grade friends models of the earth's layers. The final project for our Earth study is a team approach to creating an earthquake proof structure given specific building materials. This will allow students to use their problem solving skills and teamwork abilities.Next topic is : weather and climate.

Above and Beyond for quarter 3: Due on March 8, 2017. See description in students' binders in the purple section.



Health Class News from Mr. Peterson

The winners of the substance abuse poster contest are as follows: 5th grade, 1st place-Isabella Boudreau, 2nd place-Brielle Crommett, 3rd place-Keira Deschamps. 6th grade, 1st place-Alexis Rancourt, 2nd place-Lauren Tyler, 3rd place-Joe Wing. Great Job!!

Getting Hooked on Crochet!

Students at China Middle School are very fortunate to be enriched by elective classes. There are many offerings, from chess, to cooking, to community service projects. The choices change each quarter, which gives students the opportunity to explore many different activities.

I have the pleasure of teaching a group of twelve students the basics of crocheting this quarter. Crocheting and other fiber arts, such as knitting and weaving, are proven to be activities that are stimulating to the brain. They help build hand-eye coordination, and support literacy and math skills! In addition, they reduce stress and anxiety, while building self esteem! I hope my students are as excited to learn to crochet, as I am to teach them!

-Mrs. Sanchez



P.E. students of the month Jacob Pomelow and Isabella Boudreau

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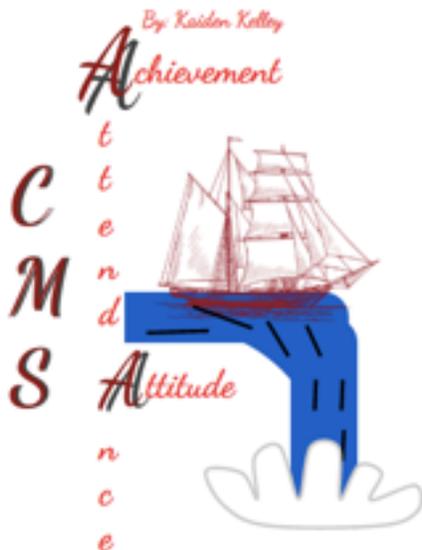
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Math News from Mrs. Lewis

As we go into the 3rd quarter of the year, I thought I would write to you about The Three A's - Attendance, Attitude, and Achievement. For students to achieve success in school good Attendance is very important. Students who come to school regularly have the most opportunity to learn. A positive Attitude is another key to success. The way you feel does affect how you do. "If at first you don't succeed, try, try, again." The staff at the China Middle School wants you to succeed. See us for extra help. You can do it! Lastly is Achievement. Try to achieve as much as you can. Work hard and try your best! When you have assignments, finish them on time. Ask questions, participate, take notes, listen effectively, and you will learn.

I am very proud of my 5th and 6th grade math students. I have seen great improvement over the second quarter in Attendance, Attitude, and Achievement! As you go over your child's progress report with them, ask them about how they are doing with The Three A's! :-)



Science News from Mr. Maxwell

Students in Mr. Maxwell's science classes have been busy learning about electricity! Students have been learning all about static electricity, electric circuits, power consumption and so much more!

Students got to learn hands on about static electricity by testing different common household materials and seeing how much of a charge they created. Students also got a chance to build some model circuits- with the help of some chalk and paper of course! This past week science students got an opportunity to analyze some real data on how much electricity each state uses. With this data, students created a map of the United States to show which states used the most electricity or the least.

There has also been a new face in the science classroom this month! Ms. Harrison is a student teacher from Unity College who is studying Secondary Education with a concentration in Life Science. She is originally from southern Maine has been attending school in Unity the past three years. When not teaching, Ms. Harrison enjoys teaching children how to swim, reading, and skiing.

Throughout the next few months, Ms. Harrison will be increasing her responsibilities in the classroom, as she will be conducting two lead weeks teaching. She is thrilled to be student teaching at China Middle School and become part of the community!

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Water Molecule: A Life

By: Kaiden Kelley 1-19-17

“When I was but a humble drop in Poseidon's infinite domain, I was very grateful to be one of his billions of flunkies. We was havin’ a skirmish once again. Before we was goin’, half our squadron got transpired by dem darn new-fangled phytoplankton! But I, I was the one original Aqua squadron veteran that stayed. Fer four hundred years I been here, biding my time. I was the one drip that was too nervous to do anything aftah the war.

So there I was droppin’ off my mail at the post office when (I must’ve gone too close to the surface, the post office is pretty close to there) I was risin’ and evaporated into a cloud. The whole way up all dat chlorophyll, boy was I surprised. Just as I was gettin’ comfy and talking with some of my war buddies that had gotten vaporized that darn cloud decided to dump me! Down into a stream, I fell and it musta been the rockiest stream in da world!

It wasn’t as pleasant as my stay in tuh Atlantic, but it could’ve been a worse current. While floatin’ I was glad I had gotten my arthritis fixed, b’cuz I was jostled and bumped along that rock so fast, that before I knew it, I was careening down a waterfall. Now later I found out that I was in a parkin’ lot, but let me tell yous all, goin’ down a watahfall is not fun. Aftah that excursion, I thought I’s was home free but then a darned squirrel came and licked me up! Now squirrels may be cute on de outside but you oughta know, the inside is not that great. I was finally exhaled into vapor and let me tell you durin’ that, my back felt great! I was trickled onta a mountain and that’s where I still am now, up in the Ozarks.”

In a cozy, little cottage on the edge of the Pacific.

“And dats where I met your Gram, The End.”

“Aww, but Grampy tell us another story.”

“No, it’s gettin’ late and these old bones can’t take much more.”

The old man reaches for the lamp switch. CLIK

Sixth Grade ELA News from Mrs. Wedge

We are working toward finishing up Literature Group books. Students have been looking at setting, characters, conflict, and theme. They will have a final project to assess their understanding of how the events, setting, conflict, and characters all influence one another. Upon completion of this unit, we will dive into a unit on Persuasive Writing.

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Science News from Mrs. Lewis

During the last few weeks students finished up their work in chemistry and began a unit on weather. It has been a very busy time with students checking online weather data and giving morning weather reports over the school's intercom system. The class had a great time becoming water molecules and moving throughout the water cycle by rolling huge cubes and following the directions on the cubes to another part of the water cycle. Using the data they collected on the cubes, students began writing autobiographies entitled, "My Life as a Water Molecule." I am pleased to say that many students participated in the "Above and Beyond" project for this quarter. Students were given materials to assemble an at home weather station. They collected data twice a day for six days and also predicted the weather for the following day. I'm excited to tell you that Mr. Todd Gutner, a meteorologist from WCSH6 News, will be coming to CMS just before vacation to talk with our fifth and sixth graders about weather forecasting. He will also bring the station's mobile weather lab called Stormy.

Grade 5 Social Studies from Mrs. Larrabee

Students are learning all about Maine! They will be studying geography, industry, state and local government, and the history of our state. Students are very much looking forward to learning more about where they live.

5th Grade ELA

Students did a great job making their board games based on informational text they have chosen. Students were able to learn about various topics and have fun playing games created by their classmates.

Students will be working on creating an advertisement or commercial for a book of their choice for the month of February. Projects will be Due Tuesday, February 28th.



Students playing a game created by Jack Lyons based on an informational text about dogs. (Left)



Ryan Tyler's game based on informational text about baseball.

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Math News from Mrs. Duncklee

Successful Math Students...

.....know that practice makes perfect!

Δ A quarterback perfects a pass by practicing it over and over again.

Δ A basketball player improves his free throw percentage by practicing it.

Δ How does a baseball player improve his batting average? Batting practice!

Δ What helps a student get better at math?
PRACTICE!

Δ You won't learn math just by watching your teacher...you have to practice! Try every problem on every homework... give it your all.

....can explain their work

Δ You'll know you really understand something if you can explain it to someone else.

Δ Show your parents.

Δ Teach a friend.

Δ Talk it through to yourself.

Δ Volunteer to show your work at the board in class.

...use all of the resources available to them

Δ Use your teacher

– Ask questions in class. Go to extra help. Visit Diigo, Khan Academy or Mathisfun.com

Δ Use your friends

– Call and ask them about questions you don't understand on your homework. Work and study together.

Δ Use your family

– Ask your parents and siblings to help you or to check your work.

..are organized

Δ Write your homework down in your agenda every day.

Δ Keep all of your notes, homework, and returned quizzes/tests in your notebook in order by date. (No loose papers!)

Δ Keep a separate binder for math class.

Δ Make sure your homework is complete and ready to be turned in the next day. And make sure you know where to find it!

..know that math is like a snowball that never melts!

Δ It grows and grows, but it won't ever go away!

Δ You'll learn new math every year, but you still have to remember every bit of math you learned before to understand the new stuff.

Δ Don't ignore your errors. Correct every mistake on your homework and on all your quizzes and tests.

...understand the "Bulldog Factor"

Δ Be determined! Be persistent!

Δ If at first you don't succeed, try, try and try again!

Δ Struggle is a necessary part of learning math - never give up!



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Spirit Week 2017

February 6th-February 10th

Monday: Mainah' Monday

*Represent your home state proudly! Wear your favorite hunting gear, Carhartts, boots, plaid, etc.

Tuesday: Twin Day Tuesday

*Coordinate outfits with another person at school.

Wednesday: Sports Day Wednesday

*Time to show who your favorite sports team is. Break out your jersey... anything that says you love your team.

Thursday: Movie/TV Character Day

*Dress like your favorite character from your favorite movie or tv show.

Friday: China Clipper Day

*Time to support our Athletes. Red, red, and more red! Don't forget to wear your China Clippers attire.

Sponsored by CMS Student Council. The top three homerooms to show the most participation over the course of the entire week will receive points toward the Homeroom Challenge.

Student Council Update

Student Council will be hosting a dance for 7th and 8th Grade students on Friday, February 10th, from 6:30-9pm. This will be a Valentine Theme Dance. More info will follow.

Math News from Mrs. Maroon

The students in Mrs. Maroon's math classes have been reviewing and learning about area, perimeter, and volume. They also have been practicing math facts by finding the mean, median, mode, and range on sets of data. They are great problem solvers! The classes will be working on fractions for the next big topic of study.

Please help your child stay proficient in basic math facts by continuing to quiz them daily! Congratulations to the following for achieving a certificate in Xtra Math this quarter: Lacey A., Tristan A., Abbey G., and Braylin B.



Mr. Peterson's health students practice CPR in the gym.

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News from Miss Worcester's Social Studies Class

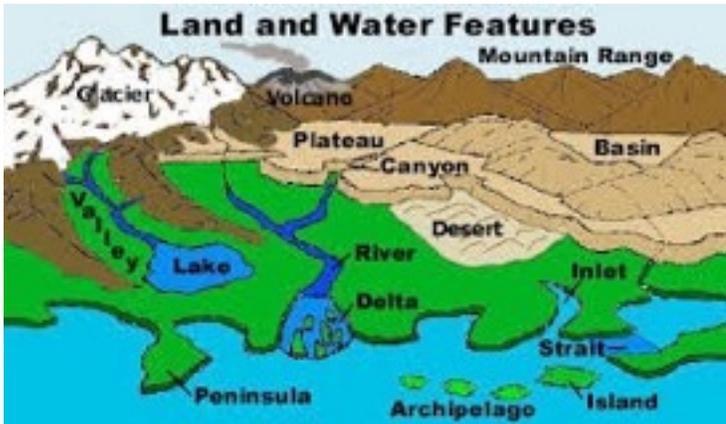
Sixth graders in Miss Worcester's social studies class have been learning about the climate, landforms, and customs across the 7 continents. In addition, students have just completed a landforms project where they displayed their newfound knowledge of researched landforms on a colorful poster. Students will be learning about natural disasters and how they affect landforms across the globe in the next several weeks followed by learning about the different customs and traditions of peoples around the world!

News from Miss Worcester's ELA Class

Students in Miss Worcester's 7th grade ELA class have been busy writing personal narratives about a time in their life that they were misjudged for how they appear on the outside, which relates to our current class novel, Wonder, a story about a boy named August, who was born with a rare facial deformity. Students have been focused their revisions on properly punctuating dialogue and using sensory details in their writing.

In the following weeks, students will be focusing on informational reading and writing as we begin reading Chew on This, an informational book that explores the realities behind the fast food industry. Students will be completing a research project on careers after exploring one that interests them.

Students should continue to be reading daily and writing in their journals weekly!



JMG Students visit Kennebec Technologies.

JMG Students: Brooke Allen and Colby Rumpf volunteer at the CMS JMG Blood Drive.

