

Clipper News

Lois Bowden
Principal

Heather Wilson
Dean of Students



November 2016

News from the Mad Scientist Mrs. Maroon

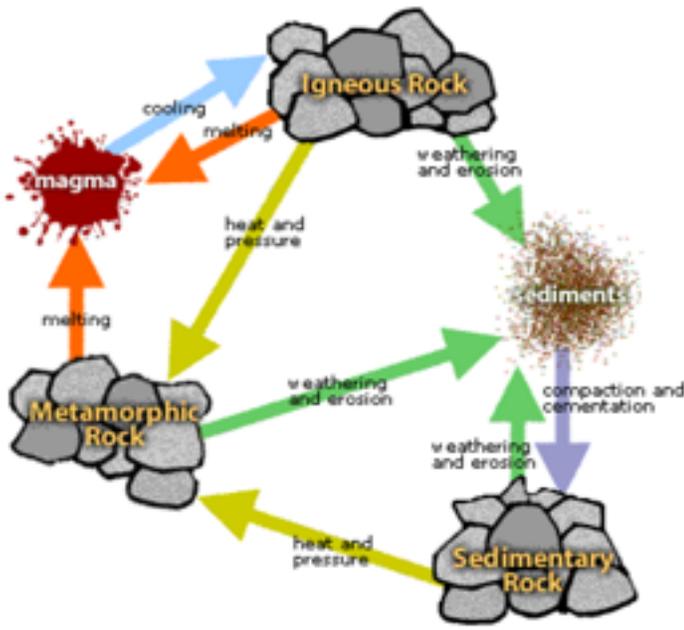
Did you know that rocks change from one type to another under certain conditions? Students in Mrs. Maroon's science classes are learning about that right now! The rock cycle is amazing!!

Soon students will receive information on an Earth layers model project that will be due before December 22, 2016. Keep watching for this exciting project explanation in your child's binder!



China Middle School Tech Team

This quarter, China Middle School created its first ever Tech Team. The team consists of sixth, seventh, and eighth graders under the name, "Tech Bosuns". Students will be creating a website, maintaining a technology blog, potentially fundraising for equipment and merchandise, and, most importantly, assisting students and staff throughout the school day. Team members (with the exception of a few that are in the process of being ordered) have a red case on their laptop, signifying their position on the team. Get Pumped!!



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Mrs. Duncklee's Elective: Animation with Google Slides

For the first quarter, students enjoyed an elective taught by our very own, Kaiden Kelley! Participants learned how to animate pictures using Google Slides and publish them so that they could show their friends.



Grade 5 Social Studies with Mrs. Larrabee

Students have begun a Pilgrim simulation in class. This activity allows students to have closer look at the struggles that the Pilgrims faced in Plymouth Colony. Students are getting to experience the hardships faced by life in the New World, as well as gain an appreciation and understanding of why the Pilgrims gave thanks why we honor them today, by participating in this hands on activity.

6/7/8 Social Studies- Mr. Reed

Students have now reached the point in the year where they have a choice of seminars in Mr. Reed and Mr. Maxwell's rooms. Students who chose Social Studies are currently learning about world cultures with a specific focus on World Religion. We will be continuing this unit throughout December, and a final project comparing world religions will be due before our December vacation.

Geography Bee

All students at CMS competed in qualifying rounds for the school-wide Geography Bee last week! Students who qualified for the final school competition on the morning of December 22nd all got six out of seven questions correct! They have been notified with a letter with more information about the Bee. If alternate competitors are needed, there will be a tiebreaker round for any student who answered 5 questions correctly.

Student Council's Annual Holiday Food Drive

Student Council will be collecting items for the Food Bank Wednesday, November 30-Wednesday, December 21. High item needs include: Canned Tuna, Canned Pasta (ravioli's, Chef Boyardee, etc), Mac-n-Cheese, Baked Beans, and Soup. Any non-perishable items are welcome. Students will earn points for their homeroom for every item donated as part of a Homeroom Challenge.

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Art with Mr. Tompkins

Art classes are in the home stretch of the first semester and are actively working on a variety of projects. Intermediate painting classes are finishing up with Keith Haring social issue posters and will be starting on Georgia O'Keefe paintings shortly. Advanced painters are preparing to start on the third of three paintings that use art styles of various artist to show understanding of the elements and principles of design. Beginning drawers are starting on two point perspective and intermediate drawers are in the middle of a project that uses Islamic tile design to understand how lines, shapes, and patterns can be used to express emotion. Sculpture students are finishing up on organic sock sculptures and a perspective collage and will be starting on new projects in the near future.

Mrs. Childs 7&8 Math

Students are working on a variety of topics. One class will be learning the seven exponent rules and demonstrating their knowledge in the "Planet Exponent" project. Students will define each rule, describe a common mistake when using it, and create a consequence for breaking that rule. In another class, students are using trigonometric ratios to solve for missing parts of triangles. On Friday, December 2nd we will take our knowledge of triangles to the China Forest! Another class is using their knowledge of solving equations to solve for solution sets of inequalities. The topic for starters this quarter is money.

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

Students are continuing to start their math block practicing facts using XTra Math. Many students are progressing nicely and have received certificates of completion on facts they are now proficient on. Please ask your child about any certificates they may have received and congratulate them for their great work and effort.

Some math topics the fifth and sixth grade students have been working on are; long division, multi-digit multiplication with decimals and whole numbers, adding, subtracting, and multiplying fractions, changing fractions to decimals and percents, and finding perimeter and area of polygons.

The Blue Math Team meets at snack time. Many students bring their own snack and others often ask me for snack. I would appreciate help with quick, easy to serve snacks for the kids. We continue working during snack time and food seems to give the kids a boost until lunch.

Thanks for checking your child's planner nightly. Homework is necessary to practice math skills and move the knowledge from short term memory to long term. I'm seeing a nice progression of skills and accuracy. Encourage work in IXL from home, too.



8th GRADERS WILL START FUND RAISING FOR CLASS DAY IN JANUARY. STUDENTS WILL BE ASKING BUSINESSES TO PLACE ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE 2016/2017 YEARBOOK AND/OR DONATE CASH OR GIFT CARDS TO THE CALENDAR RAFFLE THAT WILL TAKE PLACE IN MARCH.

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Grade 5 ELA with Mrs. Larrabee

Students have been making many gains in ELA. So far they have completed two book projects and will be beginning another for December. The December book project will be to create an advertisement or commercial for a book of their choice. The project information will be sent home with students. Students are learning and applying both reading and writing strategies which is helping them to grow. Please continue to check planners, help your student practice their weekly spelling words, and ask them about what they are reading!

Miss Worcester's 6th Grade Social Studies

Sixth graders in Miss Worcester's social studies class are becoming experts in one of the 5 regions of the United States to create a travel brochure to convince someone to travel to their region and to showcase their knowledge of the region. Students have also been continuing to memorize the states of the U.S.A. and their location through chant taught by our guest teacher Mrs. Wilson!

Next up, 6th graders will begin to learn about the 7 continents and their climate, landforms, and landmarks and about different cultures of the world. This learning will continue throughout all of quarter 2 and into the spring! Have a wonderful holiday season!

Grade 7 ELA with Miss Worcester

Students in Miss Worcester's ELA class are getting ready to present their book talks on a historical fiction novel of their choice. During a book talk, the presenter gives the audience a peek into the characters, setting, and conflict of the story without giving away too much of the plot. The goal of the book talk is to try to convince the audience that they should read the book! I have enjoyed corresponding with students through their reading journals about their books this month.

Students are also gearing up to write persuasive essays. They are to take a stance on the impact of technology and electronics on children and teens. They will craft a concise thesis statement and defend their positions through careful research. I am looking forward to reading their ideas!



The Cast of "I Wish" did an excellent job performing for the school and for family and friends!

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From the World of Mathematics with Mrs. Maroon

Students in Mrs. Maroon's math classes continue to amaze! Their mental math skills keep improving as we delve into the world of division! Please keep quizzing your child on basic math facts whenever you can!

Congratulations to the following students for achieving mastery in various skills from the Xtra Math program: Simon C., Brielle C., Grayson P., Alexia M., Tristan A., Ava W., Danny M., Lacey A., Duncan B. I look forward to celebrating many more accomplishments as the year continues!

Grade 6 ELA with Mrs. Wedge

Students are going through the Writing Process as they finish up their Personal Narratives. We have focused our attention on integrating dialogue to bring our narratives to life. During our mini lessons, we have focused on punctuating dialogue, as well as sentence structure. Students have been practicing what they have learned on iXL and are applying their knowledge in their writing. It will be exciting to read their final pieces!

News from Mr. Peterson

Physical Education classes have completed their personal fitness testing for the first quarter. Nice effort and work!! Students are enjoying Rope Climbing/Swinging, Kin-Ball and Basketball.

Health Classes have begun with all students learning about seat belt safety. In addition the 5th and 6th graders are studying alcohol and tobacco products and abuse. The 7th graders are studying CPR, while the 8th graders are studying the Heroin epidemic and substance abuse.

November PE Students of The Month: Galen Neal and Lauren Tyler.



The 2016 soccer coaches' awards were given to Chris Williams and Madyx Kennedy.

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What's New in 8th Grade ELA

The month of November has been a busy one. We have mainly been focused on the measurement topic, "Supporting with evidence from the text." In addition to our regular journal writing, reading logs, and literature letters, students have been engaging in a short unit on horror and mystery writing to work on this learning topic. A feature of this was "The Tell Tale Heart," by Edgar Poe. We read the story and used evidence from the text to conduct a classroom trial of the narrator.

Coming up we will be working on examining points of view in narrative writing. Students will also be trying out "The Letters About Literature" contest. Also watch for each student's blog for posts of the the best of writing this year. I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving.

Mrs. Mitchell



6th Grade Science News from Mrs. Lewis

Students have been busy writing a RAFT in science which stands for Role-Audience-Format-Topic. They were asked to take on the role of an atom, an element, a compound, or a molecule. Their audience was the element, the compound, and the molecule if they took on the role of the atom, and so forth. The format the students were asked to use was to BRAG about how wonderful they were and why they were so superior to the other roles. In this piece of writing, they needed to include how all the roles were connected to each other and why are they important to the formation of all matter.

I can't wait for you to read your child's RAFT. They are wonderful! I have enjoyed reading each and every one. I will be scoring this project on a 1 to 4 basis for the science aspects of this assignment. Mrs. Wedge will be working on the writing skills with the sixth graders during her language arts block.

Students had fun making "Silly Putty" for our last lab in our Chemistry Unit. We'll be finishing up Chemistry next week and on to Weather.

It was nice to see so many of you at conferences. Please remember to check your child's planner nightly for assignments. Thanks!

Students (left) have fun while making silly putty in science class!

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JMG Happenings

We are excited to announce some upcoming events and would like to wish you and your family a happy holiday season from CMS JMG!

The Giving Tree Project - The annual Giving Tree will be placed in the lobbies of CMS and CPS. Starting on Monday, December 5th, tags can be taken from the tree to purchase items that will be given to families in China. Please return all unwrapped gifts to CMS or CPS no later than Monday, December 19. The project is sponsored by CMS JMG and the Town of China.



Pictured above are students who helped sort gifts in 2015.

Coats for Kids - There will be a collection box at CMS and CPS for new or gently used coats, ski-pants. Collection will be ongoing until Thursday December 22.

China Community Winter Event - Saturday, February 18, from 11-3 at the China Lake Camp and Conference Center. Join us for a day of sliding, Build a sled made with ONLY cardboard and duct tape. Prizes will be awarded for distance and best in show. Cardboard sled race Lunch will be available Sponsored by CLCC, the Four Seasons Club and JMG.