

MIDDLE LEVEL NEWS NOTES

Volume 14

Issue #10

Nov. 16-20, 2009



Calendar

Nov. 16	1 st Quarter Report Cards go home with MS students
Nov. 16-20	American Education Week
Nov. 18&20	6 th Grade Trip to Albany Art Institute
Nov. 19	PTA Mtg., 7 p.m.
Nov. 24	Gr. 7, visit from Chris Shaw Gr. 8, visit from Teddy Roosevelt MS Pajama Day
Nov. 25-27	NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Recess
Dec. 2	MS/HS ½ Day – Students dismissed at 12:30 p.m.

Winter Wear Wanted

The Voorheesville Builders Club and the Voorheesville Public Library are sponsoring a NEW Winter Hat, Scarf, and Mitten Drive to benefit the families of Parson's [Child & Family Center](#). Hats, scarves, and mittens will be collected from November 1 – 24 at Voorheesville Elementary School, Voorheesville Middle School, and/or Voorheesville Hannaford. The Voorheesville Public Library will accept donations until December 8. Please consider donating a NEW hat, scarf, or pair of mittens to this important cause.

Grade 6

In English 6 we will be continuing with Walk Two Moons in class with increased outside reading homework to begin wrapping it up. We will also be reading some Ancient Egypt Mythology and writing our own myths to support next week's field trip. Our spelling list on Ancient Egypt words, introduced last week, will also culminate in a test on Thursday. In Math 6 we will have a test Tuesday on adding and subtracting fractions. Then, we will begin multiplying and dividing fractions. In Math 6X we will continue our unit on proportions. In social studies we will be going to see real live mummies at the Albany Institute of History and Art! Our activities for the week will include learning about the mummification process and how the mummies made it to Albany. In science we will finally begin our journey into outer space. Our first step will be to study the history and development of various astronomical theories, specifically the long and complicated transition from the ancient geocentric model of the universe to the more modern heliocentric model. To aid in this, we will be using special software that can simulate the night sky in a very realistic way. There's no plan to have a quiz this week, but students should plan for one next Tuesday. Health students will not be getting grades this quarter. Since this is our half way point, they will only receive a comment. This is their progress report. All students can meet with Mrs. Vorse to make up any work and to complete missing assignments. She is available during their lunch period or after school. They just recently worked on a project to track their nutrition intake for one day and can go online to My Pyramid.gov to help them complete this assignment. Some students may still be working on this. It can still be completed.

Grade 7

In English, students will take a vocabulary test on units 7-9 and spelling quiz #3 on Wed., Blocks A, B, and C; Thurs., Blocks D and E. The noun quiz is on Monday, Blocks A, B, and C; Tuesday, Blocks D and E. Note cards will be written for the speech. Students have chosen their speech dates which are Wednesday and Friday, Blocks B and C; Thursday and Monday Blocks D and E. Block A will present on Wednesday through Monday. In science we are going to study the Circulatory System. Math 7-2, block A will be having a test on unit 3 on Tuesday. Please remember your calculator. We will then move on to our scientific notation projects. Math 7 will be taking their unit 3 test on Wednesday for block C and Thursday for blocks D & E. This was extended from last week due to needing more time on the unit. We will then move on to our scientific notation projects. Math 7/8 will finish up algebraic equations and have a test on Wednesday. We will then be starting an equations game adventure project. In social studies the students will be continuing their investigation into the original thirteen British colonies. The beginning of the week will center on the Jamestown colony. Students will examine the initial problems the colonists faced as well as the eventual success. Students will then explore the development of the three colonial regions; the New England, Middle and Southern Colonies. To help them learn about each colonial region they will create a guide to the thirteen colonies which they will use to classify information about each region. Home & Career Skills 7 students will be focusing on health and personal wellness this week, learning about the food pyramid and dietary guidelines and setting a wellness goal. Check out our course on Blackboard if you're absent!

Grade 8

In English, students will finish the radio play, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, adapted from the short story written by Washington Irving. Afterwards, students will compare and contrast *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* and the ballad "The Highwayman" using a Venn diagram. At home, students should read the novels they selected. Novels must be read by **Wednesday, November 18. (Please note this is two days later than originally planned.)** Afterwards, students will complete creative projects based on their books. In Social Studies we will be finishing our unit on the settlement of the West. There will be a unit test at the end of the week. Math 8 students will continue their study of equations to include rewriting formulas and the Pythagorean Theorem. Algebra 1 students will continue factoring polynomials and begin studying algebraic fractions. Home & Career Skills 8 students will be learning more job-seeking skills this week, focusing on job application materials. Check us out on Blackboard if you have an account! Health students: just a reminder that health students will not be getting grades this quarter. Since this is our half way point, they will only receive a comment. This is their progress report. All students can meet with Mrs. Vorse to make up any work and to complete missing assignments. They have had two projects this half, both they completed in class, but needed to print out on their own time. Some may have been absent during these classes, and still need to complete this work. They can make an appointment during their lunch period.

The Witch

By Carmella Genovesi, Grade 8

*She's old with wrinkles and is very scary.
She has green skin, and I believe she is quite hairy.
With her strange potions and brews,
She will make a mess.
What she will add next?
Can you guess?
Some eyeballs and worms; she adds a toad.
She mixes and stirs. Oh, what a load!
The potion is finished; she seems to be done.
It may seem gross, but to her it's quite fun!
And then flying off
There she goes.
And to where? Nobody knows.
The children will run and cry
When she flies through the sky.
On her broomstick with her pet black cat,
She is wearing a cloak with a big black hat.
She cackles and screams, "Happy Halloween!"
You will not believe what your eyes have just seen.
The wind howls as she flies out of sight.
Be careful,
For she'll give you a fright
If you go out on Halloween night.*

The Haunted House

By Rachel Goldberg, Grade 8

*In the distance stands the house in a meadow
Under moonlight it casts a dark shadow
The front door squeaks, the wood floors creak
Listen carefully, you will hear the walls speak
Feel the flutter of the flying bats
See the glowing eyes of the black cats
Call out looking for your hosts
Behind the curtains, watched by ghosts*

The Witch's Drink! A Spooky Recipe

By Christine DiVirgilio, Grade 8

*It was a dark and stormy night;
Yet the moon was out, oh so bright!*

*A witch's brew was in the air.
The smell was drifting from here to there.*

*I followed the smell to a house in the woods.
A witch called out, "Come try my drink; it's very good."*

*I took a sip and found it fantastic.
I wanted the recipe for my family who's enthusiastic.*

*The witch said to start with three gallons of green slime
With a pinch of two gallons of lemon and lime.*

*To that, she added fifteen pieces of toenails,
And a small scoop of three little snails.*

*Next, she added a teaspoon of eye jam
With a hint of blood butter to give it that bam!*

*Then she included two cups of dust bunnies
With drops of some germs from little kids' tummies.*

*She stirred in fifty gummy bears to make it sweet and chewy
With 2 ½ cups of earthworms that made it so gooey.*

*The witch said, "That's it."
I asked if it would be a hit.*

*I went home to make the drink,
And it turned out to be pink.*

*It was gone in a snap,
So I smiled and clapped.*