

Language Arts: In language arts, my classes are working through the persuasive essay, focusing on the body portion of the essay. We are also focusing on producing logical claims to be proven in the essay. Students are being introduced to strategies that will build effective arguments within each body paragraph. At the end of this unit, students will be



asked to implement all knowledge gained during this unit to effectively build a five paragraph persuasive essay. The final persuasive essay will then be presented in an individual basis.

Mathematics: In the month of November, the Pre-Algebra classes completed Chapter 4 in their textbooks which covered prime factorization, greatest common factor, least common multiple, and scientific notation. In the month of December we will be moving on to Chapter 5 which focuses on rational numbers. We will be adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions that have variables in them. The students will be tested on this chapter the Tuesday before holiday break.

This past month the Algebra class was introduced to polynomials. They learned how to add, subtract, multiply, and divide them. The students were asked to write equations in order to solve problems involving uniform motion and area. They also were given word problems that didn't necessarily have a solution. This month we will be moving on to Chapter 5 which will require the students to do a lot of factoring. They will be asked to find the greatest monomial factor and simplify fractions involving monomials. Finally, the students will be introduced to quadratic equations which will prepare them for working with the quadratic formula which we will learn later on in the year.



Team 8-1 Update

Reading: During the month of November, students continued to study *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet* and the universal themes of love and fate. During class, students used their reading skills to understand and identify various instances of foreshadowing in the unit. Students also analyzed the use of figurative language and Shakespeare's writing style through class activities. To again strengthen public speaking skills, the students created skits in which they dramatized their predictions for the ending of the play

Science: December is shaping up to be a busy month in science. We have been studying states or phases of matter. We have studied the different properties of solid, liquids, and gases. In science class we have also discussed changes to these states of matter such as boiling,



freezing, condensation, melting, and sublimation. Over the course of the last few weeks we have completed many labs dealing with such topics as freezing point, boiling point, Charles's Gas Law and Boyle's Gas Law. Prior to the holiday break the students will be taking on the objectives in chapter 3. On Friday, December 11th the students will be assigned a large science project covering topics from the entire school year thus far. The students will be responsible for completing three separate activities and the final project is due by January 6th, 2010. All information for the project will be posted on Ms. Pivko's website— pivkoscience.webs.com

Social Studies: Since the last news letter, team 8-1 students have been working in social studies on The Rise of Islam. The students have just completed their study of the geography of the Arabian peninsula by exploring it's surrounding lands, deserts, oases, coastal plains, and mountains. The last two days in school found team 8-1 students in the media center working on a web quest about the Islamic faith. Today, begins the Brain Pop Islam Project in social studies. The students will be working in small groups of four or five and will be assigned a topic. The topics include, The Prophet Muhammad, The Teachings of Islam, Contributions of Muslims to World Civilization, or From the Crusades to New Muslim Empires. Coming up after the project and just before the holiday break the students will turn their medieval study to the Culture and Kingdoms of West Africa.