

Team 7-2 Newsletter

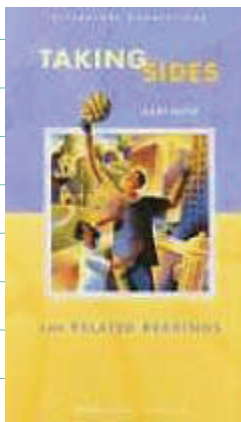


Welcome!

October 2009

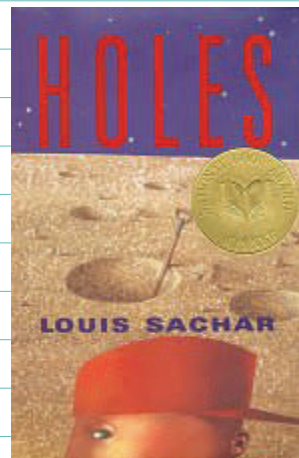
Welcome! We are very excited to kick off the 2009-2010 school year here on Team 7-2. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at 973-584-2973 ext. 2026. Our daily team meeting time is 10:25-10:50.

Reading – Mr. Graziano (ext 2128)



Welcome all to a great new school year! Mr. Graziano's reading Class is underway and with a great start. Our first unit is all about self-discovery. We will be reading Taking Sides by Gary Soto, Holes by Louis Sachar, and a whole mixture of poetry and short stories.

Get ready to discover yourself as our first big assignment will be interviewing a family member about our native cultures and ethnicities then putting it all together as a PowerPoint slideshow or a DVD formatted movie!



Lastly, what better way to discover yourself then on an island, Study Island! I will be distributing a syllabus with all the information! Here is to a great year!

Social Studies – Ms. Olszewski (ext 2133)



The beginning of the year has been focused on Early Humans and the Rise of Civilization. In our first lesson, we were "investigators of the past." We acted as archaeologists in a cave activity! Students crawled through our class cave, collected artifacts, studied the evidence, and created hypotheses. The students had a lot of fun with this activity and expressed some really positive feedback during discussion afterwards.

(Social Studies cont)

Students are now working hard on creating comic books about life in the Paleolithic and Neolithic Stone Ages. They are focusing on the shift from hunting and gathering to farming and its impact on food supply, permanent shelters, communities, jobs, and trade. After this chapter, it's on to our next topic: Mesopotamia!



Science — Mrs. Sward (ext 2142)

Team 7-2 students used the scientific method to determine the favorite color of the team. Each student hypothesized what the favorite team color would be. They surveyed each class, tallied the data, and graphed it. They were surprised at the results. By a wide margin purple and blue were the winners with a tie vote. The next most favored color was red with 8 votes. Fifty five percent of the team likes either blue or purple best.



Language Arts—Mrs. Macones (ext 2126)

Welcome to EMS! A new school year is always a wonderful chance to set new goals and have a fresh start, and our students have set goals for this year. I, too, have a goal: to help my students become the best possible writer they can be in a safe, comfortable environment.



October will see the start of Study Island assignments. Everyone has received a syllabus with the name of the lesson and the due date. Students have completed a name paragraph which we will have on display for you at parent conferences. In addition, we have been learning the parts of the writing process which we will be applying all year long.

There will be two opportunities for extra credit in the near future. The Patriot's Pen essay contest is sponsored by the VFW and consists of a 300-400 word essay; the other is the PTA Reflections program. I encourage all to participate.

I am looking forward to a great school year!

Tips of the Month—Ms. Hill (ext 2128)

ORGANIZATION TIP OF THE MONTH:

A great way to help students stay organized is to implement a color-coded binder system for each of their academic subjects. Start with colored folders and/or subject dividers in a large 2" ring binder (see divider picture below). Label the folders and/or dividers for each subject (Ex: Math = Red, Science = Green), and organize the subject into:



- 1) class notes (Ex: "do now"s),
- 2) teacher handouts and worksheets, and
- 3) homework.



Usually it is a good idea to include an additional pocket folder in each divided subject so that any teacher handouts that are not hole-punched for the students can be placed in the folder and do not become lost.

Also, double check that notes, handouts and homework for each subject are organized by date so that students can find things easily both in class AND at home.

STUDY TIP OF THE MONTH:

If your students have trouble managing their time and finishing homework, implementing the "Twenty Study" can help. The "Twenty Study" is a 20 minute study time followed by a 5-10 minute break



and then another 20 minute study. During the 20 minute study time, the student should be focusing on one subject and one assignment. A timer should be set for the student, and then be visible (but not distracting) so the student can see the time they have left for their work. When the timer goes off, the student should take a 5-10 minute break, and then re-set the timer for the next 20 minutes and continue on to the next assignment. The process is repeated as many times as the student needs to complete his assignments.

By using the "Twenty Study", students develop their ability to focus, as well as how to manage time effectively.

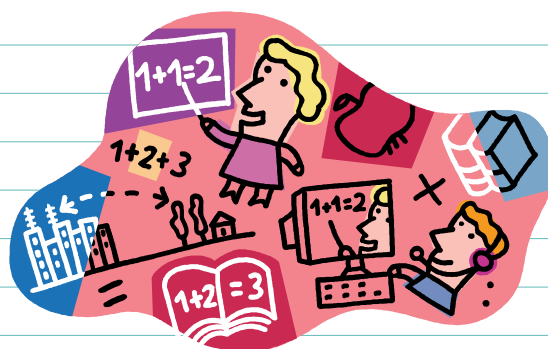
Math—Mrs. Stumpf (ext 2141)

My goal is to give my students a basic foundation for exploring and understanding mathematical con-

cepts. Our Math class includes real-life applications to help motivate students. Hands-on-activities and cooperative grouping encourage students to think not just memorize.

In the month of September, the Math 7 students described patterns using whole number operations, evaluated variable expressions and evaluated powers. The students followed the order of operations to evaluate numerical and variable expressions. At the end of the month, students used math manipulatives to model decimals. Students wrote fractions and mixed numbers as decimals and compared and ordered numbers in any form from least to greatest. During October, we will be studying Integers performing the basic operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

In Pre-Algebra, students studied the order of operations and identified polygons; they used formulas, created tables and graphs and looked for patterns to solve real-life problems. Throughout the month, students discussed problems and how to solve them. In October, students will be simplifying using like terms, solving one-step equations, modeling expressions and equations and finally solving and graphing inequalities.



Upcoming Events

- October 7th—Mid Marking Period
- October 9th—Sports Shirt Day
- October 23rd—Crazy Sock Day
- October 30th—PTA Fall Dance 7-9 pm