

Johnson Journal

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Cardinal Community Academy Middle School

Special points of interest:

I will be organizing our pumpkin fundraiser this week! Please watch your email for further info. Thank you to the Cooksey's for donating pumpkins!

The middle school will be serving concessions at the PTO dance on Oct. 14th! Watch for more info!

8th Grade Spelling List

Spelling

Chapter

Swimming

Opportunity

Immediately

Transformed

Journalism

Coverage

Mustache

Movement

Scholarly

Machinery

Chauffeur

Science

This will be the last week the students will spend on Physics. The really impressed me last week with their ability to connect energy conservation to simple machines. This truly is an intelligent class!

To finish up the unit we will be reviewing on Wednesday and taking a test on Friday. Please make sure your child is studying. They should be old enough to do this on

their own but it doesn't hurt to remind them. :)

We will also be working on science fair this week. In the computer lab the students will begin researching for their projects, using internet and encyclopedia sources.

Though this is a tedious step, it is very important to their understanding of their experiment! Student Journals will be distributed to the students. They will also receive Par-

ent Booklets to give to you. These booklets are for you to keep, giving you all the information you will need on the science fair process. Please let me know if you have any questions about it!

Homework this week:

Due Friday– study for test!

Core

In CORE this week the students and I will be searching for answers on the following question, "Is there such thing as a boring topic?" We will explore the writing trait of ideas and how this can be used to make any topic interesting to write and read about. They will also begin their next long term writing assignment– Ever Wonder Why...? The students will finish this statement on any topic of their choice. Their task will be to inform us on their topic through expository writing. The challenge we need to work on the most as

a class is narrowing our topics so our ideas are not in a listed form. Our goal will be to form clear and precise ideas with elaboration and details. A discussion of transitions will also aide the students with this paper.

For grammar, the students and I will be reviewing this week on perfect tenses, verb parts, direct objects, and transitive verbs. They will have a test on Tuesday next week covering Chapter 12 in their Shurely English book.

Homework this week:

Due Tuesday– Final Parallel Journey Papers

Due Friday– Core Packet and Checkup 39

Essential Question:
How have scientists throughout history positively or negatively impacted the environment?

Science

Upward and Onward! The 6th grade class and I will be moving on into our next unit, Oceans. This unit covers a wide range of topics including ocean chemistry, life forms, and structure. In a lot of ways Oceans are still very foreign to us. Their complexity makes exploration challenging, but it also gives this habitat a sense of wonder we all appreciate. The content for this week will focus on the composition of salt water and the resources we depend on, as well as the characteristics of Sponges and Cnidarians. These are the simplest life forms on the planet and are

exciting to learn about. They will do one lab this week on salinity, using eggs, water, and salt.

We will also review the five life kingdoms they learned in 5th grade science and the process scientists use to classify living things.

Homework this week:

Due next Tuesday: Ocean Worksheet

Science Fair

Science fair groups have been picked! On Tuesday I will be informing the students of their science fair groups. I know they are eager to receive this information. :)

For clarification, all students will complete individual work on their science fair project, but groups of students are doing the same project. I truly believe this will allow the students to learn from each other in the science fair process. They will all receive the oppor-

tunity to work individually, but with team members close by to brainstorm and check answers with.

The students will be receiving their Science Fair Journals this week, as well as a Parent Booklet to be sent home. Please make sure you get this booklet! It contains valuable information on the science fair process. Please contact me if you have any questions about it.

In class the students will begin the research step in

the scientific method, gathering more information on the science concepts that will be tested in their experiment.

Science

The nervous system has proved to be an invigorating topic for the students thus far. They thoroughly enjoyed talking about the brain stem last week because they discovered the parts of the brain that control daily bodily functions (such as vomiting and defecation). :)

This week we will explore the nervous system further by learning about the lobes of the brain and the Peripheral Nervous System. On Friday the students will dissect a sheep's brain to explore these structures first hand.

On another note, I want to send out a huge congratulations to the 7th grade class! I graded their tests this weekend and 90% of the class received a C or higher on their test! 65% of the class received an A! Knowing where this class was last year with test taking, this is a HUGE success. I am so proud of them and their ability to show me their progress and knowledge of their previous unit.

Homework this week:

Due Friday– Label brain picture

Due Wednesday– Nervous System Worksheet

Essential Question:
How have scientists throughout history positively or negatively impacted the environment?

Science Fair

The process has begun! For science fair this week the students will be receiving their Science Fair Journals, as well as their Parent Booklets. Please make sure you get this booklet! It contains valuable information on the science fair process.

In class this week the students will begin researching their project. With their partner they will finalize whose project idea they will

complete. Once their decision has been made, they will research all of the science concepts present in their experiment plan.

I am excited to see how these projects turn out. Thank you for being so supportive!