

Johnson Journal

September 6th, 2011

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Cardinal Community Academy Middle School

Special points of interest:

I am in need of a parent volunteer to help with Krispy Kremes! The responsibilities include making copies, picking up the doughnuts, and facilitating doughnut pick up after school one day in September. Please let me know this week if you are interested!

8th Grade Spelling List

Railroad

Knife

Married

Suggested

Entered

Fiercely

Functioned

Commenced

Collapse

Analysis

Attendance

Occurrence

Believe

Science

In 8th grade science the students have been learning about Physics. This tends to be an interesting topic because once the students understand the concepts, they seem very common sense to them. Yet, this area of science still remains to be the most challenging in the world today. The 8th graders have been handling the topic very well and I look forward to what we will be exploring this week. On Wednesday we will finish talking about Newton's Laws and how they apply to motion. The students will do an inquiry lab (the complete it on their own with little teacher direction) that forces them to apply their knowledge of these laws. The

In CORE this week we will continue to review key material from the students' previous years. We will use the writing process to edit and revise writing prompts the students completed last week. They will also edit and revise writing samples using a checklist. We will also work on sentence fluency by writing compound sentences and using commas.

For grammar the students will be reviewing helping verbs, adverb exceptions, and inverted sentences. I have been really impressed

knowledge will be used to move a cardboard car. On Friday we will switch gears to learn about pressure. Pressure is a type of force; all of prior knowledge the students have gained from the unit will still be applied. We will also continue to learn about the life of Albert Einstein this week. Through reading a children's book we can learn a lot about his life and how he became infamous scientists!

The students will be having a quiz on Wednesday next week, covering the content of motion, forces, and pressure. Please encourage your child to study!

Homework this week:

Core

with the students recall ability this year. They have retained a lot of information from previous years, giving them a jump start! We have been able to review quickly, closer to moving on to more challenging material.

I did send home with the students their reading passes for CCA's reading program. Once they have read the required amount they will be asking for your signature. If you haven't seen your child read at home, do not worry. They are reading a half hour a day at school

Due Wednesday: Force Worksheet

Due next Wednesday: Portions of Study Guide

Last week I informed you that the students need to start brainstorming science fair ideas. I forgot to hand out the science fair approval form last week, so I will be sending it home on Wednesday instead. The 8th graders will be doing individual projects this year. All approval forms are due on Wednesday, September 20th.

and this covers the necessary requirement for the reading program. The challenge the middle school students have is turning in their passes once they have been completed. They must turn them in to take part in the all school field trips, such as roller skating. See me if you have any questions!

Science

Plate Tectonics continues to be our topic of focus in 6th grade science. We started talking about earthquakes last week and will continue to on Tuesday. The students have been able to look at the Earth and predict where earthquakes will happen based on plate boundaries. We have connected this idea with what they are learning in Social Studies, the continents, oceans, and longitude and latitude. This week the students will make predictions again, but on volcanoes instead of earthquakes. They will learn about the types of volcanoes, where they are found,

and what they do to the surface we live on. From learning about earthquakes and volcanoes, the students have been able to discover the formation of the Rocky Mountains. Due to a subduction zone in California, we have the wonderful mountains that are the trade mark of our state.

The students will be having a quiz on Thursday this week, covering the following material: Earth's layers, convection-conduction-radiation, types of boundaries, and types of faults. Please encourage your child to study!

Homework this week:

Due Tuesday: Worksheet on Plate Tectonics & Earth's Layers

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

Science Fair

Last week I informed you that the students need to start brainstorming science fair ideas. I forgot to hand out the science fair approval form last week, so I will be sending it home on Tuesday instead. The 6th graders will be doing projects in groups but all students must turn in a project idea! I will select the most viable projects for the students to use in their groups. The date these forms are due as changed. Science Project approval forms are due on Tuesday, September 19th.

Science

Water... who ever thought this resource could be so powerful? The students have learned a lot so far on the power of water and what it does to our planet. We did spend a little time last week discussing its role as a resource as well and what we can do to conserve our water here in Colorado. The focus for this week however, will be on discovering what happens to Earth's crust as erosion and deposition continue to wear on it. So far we have only explored surface features, but nothing underneath. We will review plate tecton-

ic content from 6th grade science so we can learn more about Earth's crust layers and what erosion can do to them. We will be using a lot of hands on food items this week to help the students visualize unconformities- the result of erosion moving crust layers from one place to another.

The students will be having a quiz next Wednesday on everything we have learned about so far. It will cover a lot of vocabulary words so please encourage your child to study at home. We will review in class as well by playing vocabulary bingo.

Science Fair

Last week I informed you that the students need to start brainstorming science fair ideas. I forgot to hand out the science fair approval form last week, so I will be sending it home on Wednesday instead. The 7th graders will be doing projects in pairs. I will be determining their pairs this week and sending you an

email for your approval. Once the students know who their partners are, they will be able to brainstorm an idea and turn in an approval form. All forms are due on Wednesday, September 20th.

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

Sand Dunes Trip

The Sand Dune trip is a week and a half away! Please check your email early this week. I will be sending out an itinerary, the food item you need to bring, and an inquiry on emergency contact information. If you have any questions on the trip or the content in this email, please

let me know! The trip is a lot of fun and I know the students are looking forward to it.