



# CAMERON CHRONICLE

## 2009-2010

### From the Principal's Desk

I want to begin by thanking everyone who contributed to and bought items at our annual yard sale in November. The day was a success considering that there was torrential rain all morning long and many people who planned on coming did not wish to go out on that day. However we made money that will go directly back into the classrooms and we donated all the extra clothing and books that did not sell to good causes. Many parents and teachers contributed items and we are much appreciative of your generosity.

We also have made some great contributions to "A Place to Turn" the Framingham food bank. The first Friday of each month we take up a collection as students enter the building. December's collection will happen on Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, when we collect breakfast cereals, peanut butter, jelly and canned goods. All donations are given to the food bank, which is trying very hard to accommodate those families that can use a little assistance.

On another positive note, Cameron Middle School was able to provide 18 families with turkeys, stuffing, pasta or rice, cranberry sauce, potatoes, pies, and all the fixings at Thanksgiving. Due to the generosity of some teachers, the penny wars, and homeroom contributions 18 Cameron MS families had a lovely holiday meal. Once again you, the parents, are very generous and you should know how appreciative people are to receive your donations!

December brings us our first drama production, "The Greek Mythology Olymiaganza" on December 3 and 4 at 7:00pm right here in the Cameron auditorium. Tickets are \$5.00 if purchased in advance. We are selling them in the main office. The cost is \$7.00 the night of the performances. The students have been working very hard on this drama and we hope we have a full audience both nights. Please bring the family members, relatives, and neighbors to support these aspiring actors.

On December 17 the Framingham School Committee will be honoring some of our students. Please turn into the local cable channel to watch this special school committee recognition night. We are very proud of all our students!

On January 12 we will hold the special spaghetti dinner here at school along with our book fair. This is a most popular event! Mark your calendars. On January 19<sup>th</sup> the High School will be having a special evening for all Framingham parents of middle school-aged children. They will discuss courses at FHS and other pertinent information about colleges and transcripts. This is a very important night to learn more about grades 9-12.

Finally, we are coming to an end to the poetry recitation contest in December. A panel of judges such as the Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Tyrie, the Principal of FHS, Mr. Michael Welch and some elementary principals

including Mr. Robin Welch, along with a whole host of other dignitaries will be judging the best recitations of grades 6-8.

Have a wonderful holiday season. We wish you all the best and remember that if you have any questions, feel free to call the school. We are always interested in hearing from you.

### **Students of the Month**

Emily Redd– Grade 8

Silmar Bueno – Grade 8

Jack Luz – Grade 7

Michelle Rogerson – Grade 7

Christopher Winters– Grade 6

Jonathan White – Grade 6

### **Meeting at FHS**

On Tuesday, January 19 at 7:00pm, parents from all three Framingham middle schools will have a presentation at Framingham High School at 7:00 to discuss the High School and College. This joint PTO meeting is a great opportunity to better understand FHS and the importance of doing well in middle school. Please join Principal Welch and Guidance Director Rich Walcek for a very informative evening!

**Reminder- Cameron Middle School office hours are from 8:30 – 4:00. Although there are after school activities going on in the building the main office is locked after 4:00pm.**

### **Team News**

#### **Science: Sixth Grade Green and Yellow Teams**

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade science department has had a fantastic November. The unit of study this month was earthquakes. Students studied the faults that create earthquakes, the seismic waves unleashed by them, and the potential damage and destruction earthquakes can cause. Students completed the unit by creating “Earthquake-proof structures” of their own. The students

went on to test the structural integrity of their structures by simulating an earthquake in the classroom. This unit was especially fun and served as a perfect segue for our next unit: Volcanoes!

In Social Studies we are studying Ancient Africa and the beginnings of civilization. From East Africa to West Africa we are investigating the early trade routes, the spread of Islam, and how the invention of early farming tools led to the formation to more civilized groups of people. In addition we are also studying the effects of trade between Europe and Africa and this complex relationship began to unfold.

In Mrs. Wynn's ELA classes, students continue to improve writing skills through the EPAL Program with Framingham State College mentors. Remember that students are supposed to be writing to their e-pals at least twice a week as part of their homework. In class, we are reading *Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli, a story about nonconformity at Mica High School and how it affects students at the school. While reading the novel, students are working on vocabulary development, methods of characterization, setting, plot, and theme. Upon completion of the novel, students will be taking on the role of one of the main characters and writing a letter to another character about events that took place in the story.

### **MATHEMATICS FOR THE YELLOW AND GREEN TEAM**

The students have been exploring the connections among decimals and fractions. They have reviewed decimal place value and investigated how multiplying or dividing by powers of 10 affects the position of the decimal. They practiced several strategies for converting fractions to decimals and decimals to fractions. Some of the activities they will be doing to reinforce these concepts are the decimal dance, the fraction baby project, and the 100-meter race.

Students in Mr. Hepp's language arts classes did an amazing job memorizing their poems for the recitation contest. Congratulations to all of the students who qualified for the final round in the auditorium. The students are thoroughly enjoying the novel *Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie*, and working on building vocabulary, reading comprehension strategies and characterization. Students continue to study the parts of speech, and are gearing up their next writing piece, which will be a short memoir.

In Mr. Hepp's social studies class students have been studying the early civilizations of ancient Mesopotamia. Students worked in teams to design and draw their own city-state from ancient Mesopotamia. Each student took on the role of either farmer/geographer, government official/religious expert or job expert/ziggurat specialist. The results were amazing!

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

#### **Science: 7th Grade Green and Yellow Teams**

The next unit (Genetics and Cell Reproduction) classes explored was centered on the simple, but yet complex structure found within most cells called DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid). They also glanced at the process of cell reproduction (cell division - mitosis and meiosis) and how amazing it is. They have completed some intriguing lab activities, illustrations, and explanations in this unit. Students also started a Genetic Disorder Project in class and were able to access the Cameron Library for 3 solid days. Students are asked to assemble a presentation to share with the class upon completion. Please remember that all homework can be found on-line at [www.yourhomework.com](http://www.yourhomework.com), so check it out!

Mrs. Micozzi's students are finishing up *So Far from the Bamboo Grove* and completing post-reading activities for the novel. Students have also completed their first major writing assignment, the memoir. In writing this personal narrative, students moved through the writing process from prewriting to publishing. Finally,

students memorized poems for the recitation contest and presented them to their classes. We look forward to our grade-wide assembly, and we wish all of the finalists luck. Before we start our second shared novel, we will do a poetry unit. Students will also choose new independent reading books from the library. Each student will choose from a list of six options to complete a project about his or her book. There will be some class time given to complete the independent reading project, but mostly it will be done for homework. Our shared book for second trimester will be *The Miracle Worker*, a drama by William Gibson. This play explores the life of Anne Sullivan and her relationship with her student, Helen Keller. Please continue to check [www.yourhomework.com](http://www.yourhomework.com) for homework and important announcements. Thank you for your interest and continued support at home!

The seventh grade students have just finished studying exponents. After the holiday break we will begin working with integers and learning how and when integers come into our everyday lives. Next we will be studying linear relationships. We will learn how to represent linear relationships in a variety of ways. As with any topic, students will supplement their learning by completing projects, including big book pages. There are many after school programs that students can utilize their math skills including Math Club and C-Camp. Your student should be having approximately 20 minutes of math homework each night. To check your student's assignment please go to [www.yourhomework.com](http://www.yourhomework.com).

#### **Mrs. Callanan and Mr. Hamm- Ancient Greece, Social Studies**

Recently students have been learning about the similarities and differences between two of Greece's most famous city-states: Athens and Sparta. Students did a wonderful job writing and performing two-voice poems about these two unique city-states. Our investigations about Sparta and Athens, nicely lead us to our next sections, which include the cause and course of

both the Persian Wars and Peloponnesian Wars as well as Alexander the Great and his influences on Greek culture. Sadly, it is time to say goodbye to these students as they rotate to their next social studies section. Good luck! Welcome, to both the new students and parents! Students will be studying Ancient Greece this trimester. The current topic we are studying is the geography of the ancient Mediterranean as well as how the geographical location of ancient Athens and other city-states contributed to daily life, trade and cultural influence.

### **Mrs. Falzone and Mrs. Micozzi - Social Studies, Ancient Rome**

Students in Mrs. Falzone and Mrs. Micozzi's Social Studies classes continue their exploration of Rome, its founding influences, the empire itself, as well as the factors that led to its downfall. Mrs. Micozzi's class recently presented skits to Mrs. Falzone's class detailing the leadership of Rome and its adversary Carthage. Students took on roles of military leader, soldier, and plebian to demonstrate all aspects of Roman culture during its expansion. Students continue to learn about leaders such as Caesar, Hadrian, and the infamous Nero. These leaders influenced the direction of Rome's empire and its reach over neighboring lands. As we near the end of our exploration of Rome, students will also study the introduction of Christianity and learn about the Roman Gods.

### **Mrs. Maguire and Mr. Linnet- Geography, Social Studies**

Students are exploring countries in Western Europe. Along with identifying countries and their borders, a project involving the creation of a "European Country Informational Book" was introduced. The students chose a country in which they would become an expert on a European Country by designing an informational book containing accurate, interesting data, and is visually appealing. The library and computer lab were used for research to include topics regarding Land and Climate, History, People, Economy, Travel, Famous People, Landmarks. Multiple sources both hard copy and internet

based were provided. Students are working diligently to prepare their unique books to be concluded November 24th, with brief presentations after the Thanksgiving Break.

### **Mrs. Falzone – English Language Arts**

Mrs. Falzone's students continue with their reading of Lowis Lowry's novel *The Giver*. Students recently completed a final copy of their "My Sickness" essay, in which they narrated their own personal experience with an illness or injury. Students also participated in a poetry recitation with Mrs. Micozzi's ELA class. The Green Team students should be very proud of their work on the oral poetry unit. Students incorporated many speaking and presentation skills, and their effort was wonderful. Poem selections were diverse and spanned many different centuries and subjects. Students will finish up their novel in the coming weeks and begin their first expository essay. Thank you to all students and their families who donated books and other supplies.

## **8 Yellow & Green Teams**

### **English Language arts: Mrs. Piantedosi, Ms. McCullen, Mr. Neveu**

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade has continued to work hard on their writing skills. They have written their own narrative autobiographies, and will begin writing persuasive essays and persuasive letters in the next two weeks on topics of which they feel strongly. They have also begun to do some background information on the first novel they will be reading, To Kill A Mockingbird, and are excited to take on the challenge of reading such an interesting and inspirational book.

### **Ms. Williamson – Physical Science**

Students are wrapping up their study of forces and have started to study energy. Students will be learning about kinetic and potential energy, different types of energy and different types of energy sources. We will also be discussing the difference between the law of conservation of energy and conserving energy.

### **Ms. Rensko/Ms. Greaney – Algebra and Grade 8 Math**

In grade 8 math, students are starting their pre-algebra unit on solving equations. Students have learned how to simplify by combining like terms and using the distributive property. Next, students will learn how to solve inequalities with one variable.

In algebra, students continue to work hard. They recently finished their unit on solving and graphing inequalities. Next, students will learn how to solve and apply proportions to real-life situations, including tax and discount problems.

### **Physical Science: Mrs. Vora**

In 8<sup>th</sup> grade physical science class, we have been discussing classification of matter and states of matter. Students identified the differences between the structures of different states of matter at the particle level. Students made beautiful posters describing states of matter. We did various lab activities to learn and verify these concepts. While learning about mixtures, students separated different objects from the mixture that they had created, and thus got hands-on experience. Students will be doing a research about various theories that describe the atomic structure and will be doing presentations.

### **Spanish with Miss Santana**

8<sup>th</sup> grade advanced Spanish

I am very proud to say that these students were recently involved in the lesson planning for the Latin American holiday “Day of the Dead/ Día de los Muertos”, celebrated on November 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>. An endeavor the students took on with ease. The class was broken up into groups and each was assigned a different aspect of the agenda for a typical class day; all incorporating the history and traditions of the holiday, to include craft activities. Upon completion the advanced 8<sup>th</sup> grade class, in essence became teachers for the lower grades, as all their lessons were integrated in the festivities for that special holiday.

### **Music News**

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade students are doing very well on their Michael Jackson songs. They love singing. Please don't forget our concert on April 29, 2010!!!

The 7<sup>th</sup> graders are still learning many songs in the piano lab. They can play “*Jingle Bells*”, “*They Don't Really Care About Us*” and *Ode to Joy*”, so far!!

The 8<sup>th</sup> graders are also learning songs on the piano, many of them are very advanced and need harder songs all the time. They also love to sing!!

### **♪ CAMERON MUSIC “NOTES” ♪**

**December 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>** is the Fall Play “The Greek Mythology Olympiaganza”. Tickets are available in school for \$5 and at the door for \$7. Hope to see you there!

**Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>** 40 students in grades 6-8 will be attending the Theater Exchange at FHS. Students will depart for Cameron at 2:30pm and should be picked up at FHS at 5:30pm. High school students and staff will be sharing techniques on music, staging, and technical parts of theater. It's sure to be a great time!

**Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>** the Cameron Jazz Band will perform it's first “*Jazz at Lunch.*” Music will include: *Thriller*, *Another One Bites The Dust*, *El Taco Rocko*, *Watermelon Man*, *Chameleon* and more!

**Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>** 8<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra members will be participating in the Winter Concert at Walsh. Students from both schools will combine to play: *International Jingle Bells*, *The Magic Flute* & *Ode to Joy*.

**Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup>** is our annual Winter Concert here at Cameron. Grade 6-8 Band and Orchestra members will perform for the entire Grade 6 Class at 10am. At 7pm they will perform for family and friends. Musical

selections will include: *Bella's Lullaby, Newcastle March, The Tempest, Polaris March, March of the Magi, The Magic Flute, Absolutely Positively* and much more! Admission is free.

### **Mrs. Faletra's/Mr. Carrignant's Class** **TEC Collaborative Classroom**

The Tec Collaborative Classroom at Cameron is our program for students with special Needs. During the last month we participated in a Hay Ride, Halloween Party and indoor swimming. Exciting art classes continue with Ms. Cummins. We continue to work on thematic lessons and individual work. We look forward to hosting special friends for a Thanksgiving Dinner. TEC students continue to spend time with all their friends during homeroom, art classes, in the cafeteria and at recess, and other school activities.

### **Cameron's C-Camp**

Cameron's C-Camp after school program has been up and running since Oct. 5. There are currently 117 students enrolled and the students have been so involved in their clubs. We have quite a variety of clubs being offered from sports, jewelry making, cooking clubs, dungeons & dragons, animal rights, TV clubs, beautiful me, hip hop dance, jump start to college, and a school store, to just name a few.

Jump-start to college club has already visited two colleges so far, Northeastern and Framingham State and will visit 3 more before the end of the first semester. Animal Rights had a visitor from the NEADS program and all the students were able to meet and pet the assistance dog. This club will also be visiting Buddy Dog in Sudbury. The Beautiful Me club has made their own fragrant soap and lotions. The TV club produces the morning announcements for the school to watch on Wednesday and Friday mornings. What a talented group of students we have here at Cameron Middle School!!

### **Cameron Middle School Physical Education Department**

**Cameron XC team 2009** by Mrs. Karen Dauer  
The Cameron XC team just finished our fall running season. The season was a huge success. Our team met on Wed and Thursday from 3:15-4:45 in Sept-Nov. Each afternoon, we ran a variety of routes in the neighborhood around Cameron. The general distance was 2-2 1/2 miles per workout with our last few runs equaling 3 miles. The dedication of our runners to running and supporting each other made for a great running experience. Our core runners were **Shannon Aurelio, Brendan Dilbarian, Ben Garcia, Logan Healy, Rebecca Martino, Kaitlyn Munson, Colleen Myers, Pedro Ribeiro, Jessica Tabachnik, and Eve Ushkurnis**. A few other students came now and then. We ran routes round trip routes to Potter Road School, Stapleton, Danforth playground, and our longest to Framingham High. We ended our season with a run and then a pizza party. Congratulations to these students for their dedication to running. It was great exercise and fun! Bravo to Cameron runners! See you in the spring for Track!

**Marcos Souza**, a Cameron 7<sup>th</sup> grader, is a member of the Arsenal Soccer Club of Framingham, MA. He plays on the Arsenal U14 team. Arsenal has U12, U10, and U8. He has been in this club since U8. This summer he traveled to Disney World in Orlando, Florida to play in the National 3v3 soccer tournament. The tournament is a 3 versus 3 soccer tournament. The field is smaller. The goals are smaller. There is no goalie. The emphasis is on team play, footwork, passing, and general soccer strategies of offense/defense play. There are penalties if you even step into the goal crease. If that happens, the other team is awarded a goal.

Marcos and his team earned the chance to play in this tournament by winning the local and regional tournaments. They traveled to Florida by van. The team toured Disney World as well as playing in the tourney. They did really well. In the process of the tourney, they played in the quarterfinals and won. They played in the semi finals and won. **They got into the finals!** In


total, they played seven games. They lost the final game by one point 7-8 to Boca Jr, a team from Florida.

Teams came from all over the country- California, Washington, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia- to be in this tourney. They met Dida, the famous Brazilian soccer player on AC Milan. They also met Ricardo, the coach of AC Milan. They earned trophies,

shirts, and medals. As members of the team, they had special privileges to tour Disney World. Bravo to Marcos on his involvement in soccer and his success in this tournament.

# December

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Breakfast with the Principal for Dec. students	<b>3</b> Drama Production – 7PM	<b>4</b> Drama Production – 7PM Food Bank Collection	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Team Leader Mtg. 8AM	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Early Release 12:10 – Professional Dev.	<b>11</b> Poetry Recitation Finals	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Staff Mtg. 7:55AM	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> School Comm. Recognition Night – 7PM	<b>18</b> Jazz Band to play at lunches	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Full Day of classes	<b>24</b> Vacation break begins- No School	<b>25</b> No School	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		

Vacation 

**December Holiday Break runs from December 24, 2009 – January 1, 2010. School will resume January 4, 2010. We wish everyone a safe and warm break.**

