



CAMERON CHRONICLE

2009-2010

From the Principal's Desk

The weather is definitely getting better and the days are brighter. We are now in our last trimester of school and the time just seems to fly by! The beginning of April is when we finish our language arts MCAS and we do not begin the math testing until May. Students have been preparing for this state test all year and their writing and reading comprehension skills have been improving. We have been working on increasing vocabulary and appreciating poetry and enjoying reading.

April also has us continuing with our community service efforts. The first Friday of each month we collect food for the food bank. We have collected so many cans and bags of food this year and it is all so greatly appreciated. Feel free to have your child bring in food any day and we will ensure it gets to *A Place to Turn* that helps feed families here in Framingham.

Miss Nelson is Missing is this year's musical, which will take place on April 8 and 9 at 7:00 pm, and we are excited about this show. Please mark your calendars and be prepared to be entertained and have an enjoyable evening. The students have worked long and hard to make this a memorable production.

The PTO will be running their two-day magazine drive right before vacation. Students only need to write addresses and there is no obligation. We have been working with the same company for years and have never had a problem. It is a fast way to make money to help alleviate the cost of field trips and end-of-the-year activities and we appreciate your

support. We would love to see more parents attend PTO meetings. Please try and come to our April meeting on April 6 at 7:00. We always have teachers present and it is a great opportunity to learn more about the school and meet other parents!

We are bringing back Career Day for 8th graders, which has been a huge hit in years past. We did not have one last year and didn't want to go another year without having these special morning presentations. Ms Katy Noone is organizing the three hour Career Day on April 27, and inviting professionals to come to school and speak to students about their careers. Each student will have the opportunity to choose three presentations they wish to attend. They will be given choices as we approach the day.

There are always many activities during the day and in the evening and the weekly e-mail loops try to keep you abreast of what is happening. I want to wish everyone a lovely April vacation and feel free to contact the school if you have any questions. May the nice weather continue!

Students of the Month

Emmanuel Kalamu – Grade 8
Brian Bilodeau – Grade 8
Melissa Parrish – Grade 7
Alexandria Aurelio – Grade 7
Joseph Connor– Grade 6
Tucker Reynard – Grade 6

Important Message from the Vice-Principal

It is with mixed emotions that I write this note to the greater Cameron Community. I will be retiring as the Vice Principal as of June 30. I have been in education for 30 years and at Cameron for the last 9 years. I have truly enjoyed my time with this “family” but now it is time for me to spend more time with my husband, children, and grandchildren. It was a very special goal for me to return to work after my illness. I have since realized that it is now time for me to take it a bit easier, to stop and “smell the flowers”, play a little golf, travel, and walk the beaches of Cape Cod with my husband. Thanks to all the wonderful and caring parents, a very dedicated and talented faculty and staff, and a whole lot of wonderful middle school kids that have challenged and enriched my life for these last nine years.

Team News

Grade 6

In Social Studies we are studying Ancient Man. We will be looking at the development of societies through mans’ evolution. From the Old, Middle, and New Stone Ages each of these periods brought new innovation and advancements in how society was structured. We will be on to Ancient Egypt and see how it’s civilization grew into one of the most powerful on Earth.

ELA

Students in Mr. Hepp's ELA classes are reading the nonfiction work *Blizzard*, which describes the blizzard of 1888 as it pummeled the East Coast. As students read, they are following the stories of people who endured the storm. Students will then pick one character and write a story about the blizzard from the perspective of that character. We have also been getting ready for the MCAS, which takes place on March 22 and March 26. Students have been reading articles and answering open-response questions. Finally, all students are reading independently, and we have some students who have read as many as 35 books so far this year!

Mrs. Wynn's ELA classes will be finishing the nonfiction book, *Blizzard*, by Jim Murphy this

month. Students are learning the elements of nonfiction as we read this story of the treacherous blizzard that hit the northeast in 1888. Ask your student the meanings of the following words, and he/she should be able to tell you! - melodramatic, traumatic, lurking, debris, marred, plummeted, ominous, appalled, wrath, and menace. We will be going our field trip to Framingham State College on April 30th to meet our epals, tour the campus, have lunch in the college cafeteria, and just have a day of fun as the kids learn about life at college.

7th Grade

Science – Mr. Granfield (Mrs. Callanan) and Mr. Hamm

Both classrooms are heavily into the Human Body Unit. Students have completed numerous hands-on activities centered around the major systems of the Human Body. Some lessons had students build arm and spinal cord models, measured and compare muscle size vs. muscle strength, explored muscle fatigue, investigated the heart (pump), and other neat and exciting activities. Students played the game, “Pictionary”, with the vocabulary found in this unit to help build understanding with these terms. We played a game called “Human Body Jingo”, which is similar to “Bingo”, but pictures replace numbers on the player’s cards. Students were engaged throughout this unit and had fun learning about the major systems of the body.

Math – Mrs. Maquire and Mr. Linet

The seventh grade yellow team students are finishing up the topic of ratios and proportions. We will move to the geometry strand and begin the study of the sum of the interior and exterior angles. Students will also work with polygons and transformations. There will be many fun activities with this topic and as always the students will work on a big book page, which will assist them when they begin reviewing for the May MCAS test.

ELA – Mrs. Micozzi

We continue with our drama unit and the play *The Miracle Worker* by William Gibson. We are alternating between reader’s theater in class, independent reading, and watching the 1962 film. Students will write letters from the perspective of

Helen Keller to one of her family members. We also continue to prepare for MCAS. In our grammar lessons, we have focused on strategies for conventions that are particularly relevant to the long composition, and we held individual writing conferences to discuss the practice essays students wrote. We also continue to practice the steps to writing an effective open response. Ms. Eisenberg, Mr. Truesdale, and I have seen lots of improvement in our students' MCAS writing, and we appreciate their hard work! Please support your child's efforts by making sure he/she gets adequate rest and eats a healthy breakfast on testing days. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mrs. Falzone – English Language Arts

Students in Mrs. Falzone's ELA class have just completed final copies of an essay on *So Far From the Bamboo Grove*. This essay analyzed heroic events in the novel in the aftermath of World War II. We were fortunate to welcome Yoko Kawashima Watkins, author of *So Far From the Bamboo Grove* for a presentation to all Grade 7 students. Students are currently engaged in a study of mythology and will move next to a unit on poetry before beginning our final classroom text, *The Miracle Worker*, a play about the life of Helen Keller and her teacher, Anne Sullivan.

Social Studies: Ancient Greece - Mr. Granfield (Mrs. Callanan) and Mr. Hamm

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!

Social Studies: Ancient Rome – Mrs. Micozzi and Mrs. Falzone

Students in Mrs. Micozzi and Mrs. Falzone's Social Studies classes have been finalizing their study of Ancient Rome. Students from Mrs. Micozzi's class wrote skits that incorporated their study of the Punic Wars. These skits were then presented to Mrs. Falzone's class, which was studying the same time period. To close our study of Rome, both classes have watched a series of videos that highlight the achievement and pitfalls of the Roman Empire. These films have given students a visual component to give context to the places and events they have studied. Students were able to see video of the Colosseum, the Pantheon and other places of architectural and cultural importance.

Social Studies: Geography – Mr. Linet

In Geography students finished their European Travel Project and continued to study the Climates of Europe, from Mediterranean to Ice Cap. They were able to grasp an in depth understanding of various European countries, their culture, history, destination places, education, and economy.

During the end of this trimester, students embark on the study of Oceania, Australia, New Zealand and Antarctica. One activity will be to create a story using Australian words such as dingo, billabong, and others. It is pretty amusing to listen to the students read their creative stories.

Please remember that all homework can be found on-line at www.yourhomework.com, so check it out!

8 Yellow & Green Teams

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

The eighth graders are currently busy preparing for the upcoming MCAS assessments at the end of March. Beginning in April, students will prepare to dive into their third novel of the year, Night, by Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel. Students will study the time period; key vocabulary words, and synthesize real historical events and persons with the novel, itself. They will also continue to

demonstrate and improve their writing skills in a daily journal, intended to aid students in reflecting upon this often-difficult subject material.

Ms. Rensko/Ms. Greaney –Grade 8 Math

We are currently working on percents. Students should be able to calculate the sales tax, discount and tip. Quiz your 8th grade student next time you go shopping! Next, we will be beginning the data analysis and probability unit. As part of this unit, we will be gathering and analyzing data on the number of chocolate chips in store-brand versus Chips Ahoy cookies.

Algebra – Ms. Greaney and Ms. Rensko

We are working on solving systems of linear equations. Soon, we will be starting our exponent unit. The students will be using the Pythagorean Theorem to solve problems. They also be learning to apply all of the exponent rules. Finally, they will be learning about exponential growth and decay. We will apply it to real world problems such as credit card debt and savings accounts.

Physical Science: Mrs. Vora

We started this month with the study of physics. Students discussed their understanding of terms such as speed, velocity and acceleration. We then defined these concepts from a scientist's point of view. Using a variety of graphs students learned how to interpret the motion of an object and how to calculate these quantities using SI units. They also did a variety of hands on activities to understand Newton's laws of motion. Students had a unique experience to be part of a lesson developed by the Museum of Science, Boston. They did many hands on activities as they learned about pressure and pistons. Students will soon be learning about energy with an additional focus on the thermal energy and heat. 8th graders will have their science MCAS in 3rd week of May and the students will be given practice questions to prepare them for the upcoming MCAS.

I did a presentation about the culture and history of India as the students learn about India in their Social Studies class. Students got an opportunity to see many artifacts from India and were thrilled to

see their usual science room transform into "India" for one day!

Students came and helped at Academic March Madness night last month and had a lot of fun showing science "magic tricks" to their curious audience! Thank you to the students and the parents who came to school that evening! I couldn't have done my presentations without the help of these students!

Social Studies – Mr. Fauth

Well, Tri 2 has come to a close! Only one more trimester of middle school left for our 8th graders! Boy does time fly!

Currently, the 8th grade Social Studies students are learning about Medieval India and China. A special thanks goes out to Mrs. Vora for putting on her annual India Day celebration. This celebration is wildly popular every year and offers a warm invitation into the culture and traditions of Mrs. Vora's home country.

Students have also engaged in other activities to bring this unit to life like yoga and the iPod project. The iPod project (Mr. Fauth's students) remains a yearly classic. It asks the students to connect lyrics from songs or poems to historical facts from Medieval India and China.

Spanish with Miss Jimenez

Grado 8

¡Hola! Regis College has an annual Service trip each spring break to Villa El Salvador, Perú. I participated in these service trips two consecutive years while I attended Regis. For a "pretérito" (past tense) project, I thought it would be a great idea for my 8th grade class to write letters to students in Perú. The letters are being hand delivered in March and in exchange, the Peruvian students will respond to these letters. Since we are learning the present tense and past tense, all of the letters will include writing in these tenses. The Peruvians were also instructed to write back en Español. So, It will be interesting to see how much they will understand on their own and how much will have to be translated back into English. Now, we are working on "El Crimen" (The Crime) project where we will play

Clue and each student will have to write in the (pretérito), past tense, to prove they are innocent, have an alibi, and did not commit the crime. ☺

Grado 6

In sixth grade we all became poets and authors while we learned all about “NEGATIVOS”(negatives) Each student chose a topic to write about and they had to write about this topic using all of the negative vocabulary we learned such as: nunca (never), nada (nothing), ningun (neither/nor), nadie (nobody), and ni (nor/neither). Students got very creative and wrote short stories or poems, I was truly impressed. We also created min-autobiographies and now our on our way to creating famous family trees and family photo albums. ☺

Grado 7

In seventh grade we began the food unit and have learned new vocabulary on vegetables, fruits, seafood, silverware, desserts and drinks. Now, we will attend on a field trip to Viva Mexican Grill located in Wayland, Massachusetts. On this field trip students will participate on a Mexican Art scavenger hunt, food preparation demonstration, and a tour of the kitchen. After, they will sit with their classmates and enjoy a Mexican family style lunch. ☺

Spanish with Miss Santana

Yummy!! That is the word that would best describe the unit that the 7th graders just completed. It was all about food/ *la comida*. Throughout this unit students were engaged in a whole host of activities that cumulated in the unit test. In addition to the vocabulary in the text students also learned the words used when discussing ‘setting a table’, furthermore students had the opportunity to explore *foods* from around Latin America through their ‘menu’ projects- which had students exploring different countries and their cuisine. To conclude the students have been invited to attend an authentic Mexican restaurant for lunch and will be given the opportunity to put their vocabulary into use, which they practiced in their dialogue activities.

**A special thanks goes out to Shannon Aurelias & Eve Ushkurnis for their participation in 5th grade curriculum night on behalf of the World Languages Department.

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 month of March the students have been working very hard on their MCAS. We have also hosted friends from the TEC program for a St. Patrick's Day party.

We have enjoyed swimming field trips as well as a trip to the aquarium. TEC students continue to spend time with all their friends at Cameron during homeroom, art class and lunch time. We are all looking forward to Mrs Faletra returning from maternity leave this Month!

This is a poem written by one of our students 10 year old brother;

Speechless

My sister....

She is strong but silent,

She will grow but not grow a voice,

She needs help but helps others more,

Is poetic but cannot make a rhyme,

She hears but cannot be heard,

On the inside she yells for help, but no one ever hears her,

She is full of responses, but is saving them for the right time to respond,

She is looking for a voice, but can not find the right one to use,

She is a fighter, but cannot give a command,

This is a life without being heard.

Art Update

March is youth art month and many students have work on display. **Nicole Nieves**, **Shawn Quigley**, and **Emily Frank** have their artwork on display at the Worcester Art Museum. There is also a display of student artwork at the Framingham Public

Library. Congratulations to: **Alex Wolfe, Lara Cosendey, Lindsay Hart, Tammy Karikal, Brianne Hansen, Julia Goldstein, and Sabetha Lafontant.** These students have worked very hard!

On March 16th, Cameron held Academic March Madness night. Students in art for the second trimester put their art on display for all to see in the Cameron cafeteria. Excellent work everyone!

Band/Orchestra "Notes":

Friday, April 30, 2010 - *Jazz Band performs at the Metrowest Community Prayer Breakfast 7am-10am. Breakfast buffet included. (Wear jazz polos and black dress pants.)*

Wednesday, May 5, 2010 - *Jazz Band performs at Callahan Senior Center 10am-2pm. Pizza Lunch included. (Wear jazz polos and black dress pants.)*

Thursday, May 27, 2010 - *Spring "Pops" Concert - Cameron Band & Orchestra and Walsh Orchestra @ Cameron 10am & 7pm (Wear Black & White concert dress - Boys bow ties and girls skirts.)*

Monday, June 14, 2010 - *Band/Orchestra Outing to Laborers' Training Center, Hopkinton, MA 9am-3pm. Cost is \$12 for all instrumental students with an A or B average in music. (Bring bathing suit & towel)*

Information on the 6th Grade Concert

On April 29th, the 6th grade chorus will be performing a concert honoring Michael Jackson. It will begin at 7:00PM and students should be in the auditorium at 6:30 sitting in their spots on the risers. Every student will be wearing a tee shirt with the "This is It" logo on the front. The cost of the shirts are \$10. I'd like to have the students bring in the money as soon as possible.

Looking forward to seeing you on April 29th!
Mrs. Dinsky- Choral Teacher

From the Nurse's Desk

Spring is here and allergy season has arrived for many students and their families. Itchy eyes, a stuffy or runny nose, sneezing and headaches are some of the symptoms of spring allergies. If someone in your home suffers from allergies a

wonderful website is available.

<http://pollen.com/Pollen.com.asp> has helpful information on allergies and what to do about them. You can also register for daily email updates of local pollen counts. If your child has allergies to pollen this can be a helpful indicator of days when allergies may be more bothersome. If your child has allergy symptoms consult their physician or pharmacist about the many prescription or over the counter remedies that are now available to help reduce the annoying symptoms of spring allergies.

Reminder to parents of grade 6 students: There are several immunizations that are required by the state for grade seven entry. Please send in your child's updated immunization information as soon as possible so they are cleared to enter grade 7. Please contact me with any questions. Thank you. Linda Renault 508-879-7257.

Math Team Preparing for Final Meet of Year

The math team will participate in its final Intermediate Math League's competition on Wednesday, March 24th. The team will travel to Northboro's Melcian Middle School to compete with Fuller, Walsh, Westboro-Gibbon, Worcester Academy and Melican.

The team has been practicing every Wednesday morning since the early fall. They had participated in four IMLEM meets, Mathcounts and St. John's Invitational. We are proud of all the members of the math team for the dedication, commitment and hard work. The math club will continue to meet every week through May. New members are always welcome. For more information, contact Mr. B. Paquette.

Pi Day a Big Hit at Cameron

Many students participated in the annual "Recite digits of Pi Contest" over the past few weeks. Students memorized as many digits as possible. Pi, the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter, is an irrational number that has an infinite number of digits. Several students recited the digits they had memorized in front of a panel of judges on March 12th.

Quinn Foster, of Grade 6 Yellow Team, was the school's overall winner. He managed to set the school record with an impressive 211 digits. He not only won a pie to be shared with friends, but also got to "pie" *Mrs. Kelly* in front of the entire 6th grade. *Michael Grinnell* won for the 6th Grade Green Team with 121 digits. *Kathryn McGovern* was the 7th Grade Yellow Team winner. *Brianne Hansen* recited 102 digits to be winner on the Grade 8 Yellow Team. Congratulations to other students who were brave enough to recite the digits in front of the judges. Those students include: *Olivia Osei-Kuffour, Jess Diana, Glen Eisman, John Llewellyn, John Lagoutaris, Juliana Magalhaes, and Gregory Savino.*

From the Special Ed. Department

Cameron Middle School is the only one of three middle schools in Framingham, MA to house a .4 ED/BD Special Education program for students with emotion and/or behavior goals as part of their Individual Education Plan. This program has been based here at Cameron M.S. for ten years and has helped many students obtain the skills needed to be successful with their future education and for life.

Our program sets short-term goals for each student within a level system. Students are able to work their way through the level system by academic achievement and social/emotional growth. The highest possible goal that can be obtained by the students in our program is called "Community Leader." This is exactly what it states. To be a Community Leader a student must show willingness and growth in learning new pro-social behaviors. Additionally, these students must show academic growth. This does not necessarily mean that they need to earn all A's on their report cards, but it does mean they need to achieve their individually designed academic goals. Also, a major part of being a Community Leader is showing leadership and being a role model. We expect these students to be able to or show a willingness to help others in their times of need. When a negative situation occurs in the classroom or in the school, we want

our Community Leaders to try to assist other students in making better choices.

All of the students in the program have gone through individual/ personal situations that may have played a part in their being placed in a self-contained classroom. So, when a student becomes a Community Leader it demonstrates an ability to work through and beyond personal adversity. In the ten years and hundreds of students that have come through this program, only seven students have been able to reach the level of Community Leader. Three students achieved this during the present school year. Two seventh graders, *Erick Davila* and *Quaran Green* have shown such an effort to reach the level of Community Leader. *Erick* now meets with the sixth graders that are part of the program and encourages them to reach their personal goals. *Quaran* is the consistent classroom role model. He is Mr. Arnold, Mrs. Huekell and Mr. Myers' "first-hand man." When any of these teachers need assistance from a student, *Quaran* is the student that teachers can count on, as he has demonstrated he is both trustworthy and reliable. Our third Community Leader is an eight grade named *Timothy Driscoll*. *Timmy* is a role model because he provides support to the other students in his class. This might be helping someone with an academic assignment, or being there for a classmate when he sees that person might be upset from having a difficult personal matter. Other students look for and go to him for help.

Congratulations to these three young men and their families! These students are true Community Leaders and great ambassadors for the Cameron Middle School!

Cameron Cares

Cameron Middle School and the local food bank, *A Place to Turn*, wishes to thank NMTW Community Credit union for supporting our community service effort. Every month we collect food for the food bank and the Bank now is paying us twenty-five cents for each pound we collect. Thank you NMTW Community Credit Union!

April

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1	2 Good Friday – No School	3
4	5 Team Leader Mtg. – 3:15PM	6 School Council – 5PM PTO - 7PM	7	8 Spring Musical 7-8PM	9 Spring Musical – 7-8PM	10
11	12 Staff Mtg. – 7:55AM	13	14	15 Student/Staff Basketball Game @ FHS 6-9PM	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
April/Spring Vacation Week – No School						
25	26	27	28	29 6 th Grade Concert 7-8PM	30	