



CAMERON CHRONICLE

2009-2010

From the Principal's Desk

We were very fortunate to have such nice weather in January for our annual spaghetti dinner. Many faculty members and families attended and it was a great success. We also held a book fair that night and it gave parents an opportunity to purchase some books and have a nice spaghetti dinner with student entertainment. I especially want to thank the three student council advisors who helped make all the arrangements, Margot Flionis, Tiffany Greaney and Meaghan Williamson. These three women have helped oversee many initiatives this year including the food drive we conduct the first Friday of each month.

So hard to believe we are half way through the year. It is going so fast. February proves to be a really great month too for a number of reasons. First, we will once again be fortunate to have author Yoko Kawashima Watkins return on February 12 to speak to the seventh graders. All the students have read her autobiography, [So Far from the Bamboo Grove](#). She will give her talk four different times and also take time to personally sign books. This is a great treat right before we begin February vacation.

The first week of February is spirit week! Students can participate by wearing specific clothes earmarked for each day and for contributing food on Friday to the local bank. We also have been asking for contributions to the Haiti relief effort and have kept a jar outside the main office for this purpose. At the end of

spirit week we will send the money to a charity doing work in Haiti.

On February 5 the entire school will be given a prompt and asked to write another long composition. This is certainly good practice for the seventh grade MCAS test but we are doing this also to help students improve their writing and understand the differences between writing a long composition and writing short answers or open responses. All students need practice writing in order to hone their skills and get better. We continue to do small group reading circles, which we are trying to have students do better either with reading fluency or reading for comprehension. Many of these groups have proven to be quite worthwhile. Research has shown that the more people read the better readers they become. We are trying to push more independent reading at home and more reading in school. Finding a book of interest and at their reading level is crucial. In sixth grade we will be asking students to take a quick reading test on-line and the results will show us their correct reading level. With this information we can be sure students are in the correct RTI groups.

Finally, we will be having the eighth grade Medieval Museum presentations in the library on February 23. The seventh grade will hold their activity night on February 25. And all of you are welcome to attend the February 2nd PTO meeting in the library at 7:00PM to learn more about the school. Have a great February and a restful February vacation!

Cameron Middle School students and staff want to thank **Panera Bread, La Cantina Restaurant and the Framingham Public Schools Food Service department** for their contributions to our spaghetti dinner. *Panera Bread* donated loaves of delicious home-baked bread while *La Cantina* generously gave salad dressing and spaghetti sauce, their signature dishes. The food service department donated spaghetti and homemade brownies. All the food was wonderful and we couldn't have had such a successful night without all these generous donors. Many thanks!!!!

No late buses until after February vacation, Feb. 22nd.

Students of the Month

Christine LaBelle– Grade 8
Ilana Fitzpatrick – Grade 8
Nicholas Docherty– Grade 7
Laryssa Da Silveira – Grade 7
Timothy Luz– Grade 6
Leonardo Costa – Grade 6

Team News

Grade 6 math

Students are wrapping up Chapter 3 by multiplying and dividing with fractions and decimals. Next we will be making sense of percents. To explore percents each class will conduct a survey, asking about their favorite sport to watch. Students will convert results to fractions, decimals, and percents. Then the results will be displayed with circle graphs. During this chapter we will be adopting fraction babies. While working on this project students will review equivalent fractions and convert fractions to decimals and percents

In social studies we are studying China. We will look at the long history of China and how it fits into the modern world. The geography of this vast country and the billion people who live there, provide us with many different opportunities to study this fascinating country.

As China continues to become a modern economy their influence will continue to grow on the world stage.

ELA

Students in Mr. Hepp's language arts classes have been hard at work writing fiction stories. Stories must include setting, characters, a conflict with a resolution, and dialogue. In addition, students focused on two writing traits – ideas and word choice. Topics for stories range from mysteries to war stories to humorous tales of revenge. Students also just finished handing in independent book projects. All classes are getting set to start the nonfiction story *Blizzard*, by Jim Murphy.

In Mrs. Wynn's ELA classes, students have been assigned an independent reading project, and they will begin presenting them on January 29th. They should be spending time every night doing some independent reading. The more reading kids do, the smarter they get! It's a proven fact! We have also been working on many different types of figurative language in class and applying them to poems we've written. Ask your child the meaning of the following words: simile, metaphor, alliteration, personification, hyperbole! We will begin the book, *Blizzard*, by the end of the month, the story of the Blizzard of 1888! Students should continue to write to their Framingham State e-pals **TWICE** a week from home as part of their ELA grade!

7th Grade

Science: 7th Grade Green and Yellow Teams

Soon after we finish our discussion on the various theories surrounding evolution, our classes will take a more in-depth look at classification. Students will investigate terminology and scientific practices in order to help them better understand why organisms and their unique characteristics are placed into

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

Social Studies:

Students finished up projects involving South America and will be exploring countries in Western Europe. Along with identifying countries and their borders, a project involving the creation of a "European Country Informational Travel Brochure" will be introduced. The students will choose a country in which they would become an expert on a European country by designing an travel brochure containing accurate, interesting data, and is visually appealing. The library, computer lab, magazines will be used for research to include topics regarding Land and Climate, History, People, Economy, Travel, Famous People, Landmarks.

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

Social studies classes continue to explore Ancient Greece. We are studying the government of Ancient Athens and its role in the beginning of democracy. Next, we will be comparing and contrasting two very important and different city-states in ancient Greece, Athens and Sparta. Our investigations regarding Sparta and Athens, nicely leads us to our next section, which will be about the Persian wars and Peloponnesian wars. Students have just completed a series of in class projects. The first project was called ‘Sell your City-state’, where students were hired by an ancient Greek advertising company, Advertises and they had to come up with a creative poster to advertise their city-state so others would want to come and live there.

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

Students in Mrs. Micozzi and Mrs. Falzone’s ELA are delving into the study of Ancient Rome. This month, our primary discussion focuses on Etruscans and their influence on the

Romans in the seventh and sixth centuries BC. Students will view a slide show highlighting elements of Etruscan culture and everyday life that influenced and enriched Roman culture. Through our studies, we will discover that many of the ideas and methods introduced by the Etruscans helped Rome become an expansive and powerful empire.

Math – Mrs. Maquire

The seventh grade yellow team students have just finished studying linear relationships. We will work with many real-life scenarios including cell phone prices and jumping jack activities. We will move to the geometry strand of mathematics and begin studying congruent and similar figures. Next, we will continue working within 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

Mrs. Micozzi’s ELA classes have been working on a poetry unit. Students are using figurative language and other poetic devices to analyze poems and respond to them in writing. They wrote original “Found Poems” based on passages from their independent reading books and created poetry portfolios. Our next unit will be mythology. We will analyze the stories of immortal gods and goddesses, and students will write their own myths. Finally, we will study drama as we start our new in-class novel, *The Miracle Worker*, in February. With Ms. Eisenberg, we will continue to prepare for the long composition and open-response MCAS questions. Thank you for your continued interest and support at home!

Mrs. Falzone – English Language Arts

Students in Mrs. Falzone’s class will be undertaking the reading of Yoko Kawashima Watkins’s novel *So Far From the Bamboo*

Grove. As part of their work with this text, students will complete a pamphlet project associated with World War II, the backdrop for Kawashima Watkins's novel. Students will select a topic of their choice from a list of options which include: Auschwitz, Nagasaki, Hiroshima, Normandy, FDR, U-Boats, women in the workforce, Japanese Internment Camps and others. Once students select a topic they will complete library research, utilize a graphic organizer, and then create an informational pamphlet that includes historical photos. Students will be required to use correct research citations for all of the information they include in their projects.

8 Yellow & Green Teams

Mr. Manning/Mr. Fauth – Social Studies

Both on the Yellow and Green teams, the 8th graders are in the middle of studying their most intensive unit-Medieval Europe. Students are currently learning about feudalism as a political and social structure, and as it relates to the overall history of Medieval Europe. Shortly, the students will study the role of the church and development of countries of Western Europe. Coincidentally, the students will have a MAJOR PROJECT (Due Date Feb.23), where they will be asked to research one aspect of Medieval Europe, create an artifact/display about that aspect, and be asked to become a "museum expert" on that aspect.

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

The Grade 8 math students are completing a unit on linear relationships. They are working to connect various representations of linear relationships, including words, tables, graphs and equations. Next, they will begin a unit on ratios, proportions and percents. During this unit, students will tackle many real-world problems such as sales tax and percent discounts.

Algebra – Ms. Greaney and Ms. Rensko

The algebra students recently took a midyear exam, which assessed the first five units of the course. They are currently finishing a unit on linear equations. Next, the algebra students will be studying systems of linear equations. They will be learning to solve the systems of equations using three methods: graphing, substitution and elimination.

Physical Science: Mrs. Vora

Physical science students learned about the structure of an atom and the subatomic particles. They studied the Periodic Table of the Elements. Students observed different patterns in the Periodic Table. Students were assigned an element that they researched for their element tee-shirt project and did the presentations on Friday, January 22nd. They examined the structure of an atom and learned how and why the elements react with each other. Students in the physical science class will continue their study of the chemical properties of different elements and compounds through various demonstrations and experiments.

Physical Science: Mrs. Williamson

In physical science, the yellow team just finished up some great presentations about energy. Students created videos, slide presentations, newsletters and videos about their energy questions. Many students really thought deeply about this pressing issue and did a wonderful job researching their issues.

Spanish with Miss Jimenez

Clase de Español

Octavo Grado

In the 8th grade we learned TWO new verbs that both mean, "to know", "Saber" y "Conocer". They learned that one is for factual general information and the other is for more abstract ideas and people. For their final project students became celebrities and famous TV hosts and interviewed each other starting each question

with these verbs. They created their own customized note cards and presented their interviews to the class as if they really were on TV. Some chose to be on the red carpet, award shows, while others chose to create their own TV show. The 8th graders did an excellent job!

Spanish with Miss Santana

I want to take this opportunity to share how very proud I am of the 7th graders involvement in their unit projects/ activities. The unit “De Compras” introduced the students to vocabulary used when shopping. Words such as size/ talla, precio/ price, materiales escolares/ school supplies are just an example of the extensive vocabulary. Interactive and communication activities had students simulating a school store and acting as cashiers and customers; designing their very own fashion catalogues entirely in Spanish; as well as, acting as stylists describing their classmates’ latest trends. Again student participation was exemplary. I am looking forward to the next unit.

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 January, the students have chosen to focus a unit on the winter. In addition, they enjoyed a field trip to a bowling alley. They also enjoyed eating out on several occasions for breakfast and lunch as well as, swimming indoors. TEC students continue to spend time with all their friends at Cameron during homeroom, art class and lunch time. Special thanks to our 7th grade friends who visit with us during their free time.

Cameron Physical Education Dept Update **From Mrs. Dauer and Mr. Kelberman**

Volleyball is our latest unit. We use many approaches to learning the ways to hit the ball - underhand and overhead. We play various lead-up games to increase the players' movement. Mr. K and I hope to see our students really moving

around the court -darting quickly to make a play. We introduce “Non-Stop Volleyball” that involves keeping the ball moving in many ways – some hits are clearly not legal hits in true volleyball, but some are we do see skills develop. We also see lots of movement and excitement on the court, and have heard lots of laughing and giggling which is proof that it’s fun. We sometimes introduce being able to catch the ball (a learning technique leading to improved strategy and not a usual thought when playing volleyball). When we teach the serve, we start with the underhand serve but also encourage students to try the overhead serve. We encourage our students to practice and improve their serve, as it is a key component of controlling the game points. Some students are moving into an overhead serve, which is very impressive.

We set up the gym with four courts – two large courts and two mini-courts. In fact, we pride ourselves in having “wall-to-wall nets” stretching the whole length of the gym. In this way, there is a lot of playing area. Students, who really like the game, can play after school during intramural volleyball. There are very active games in class and after school. Each year we aim to direct our students towards playing high school sports as well as learning lifetime sports. Volleyball is a sport that meets both those goals.

Intramurals = After School Sports meet on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 3:15 - 4:45 in the gym. Look for a schedule on the wall outside the gym for details about what activities are being held. Generally: Basketball is on Tuesdays, Volleyball is on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Intramurals are open to all students as long as they have a signed permission slip passed in to Mrs. Dauer. Remember to have your gym wear and sneakers. Join in the fun. Questions? Call Mrs. Dauer @ 508-879-2290 x1007 or email kdauer@framingham.k12.ma.us
There are no buses in February for intramurals so students must get a ride home.

The Elks' Shoot Out is a basketball foul shooting contest held each year across the country. This year the Elks Local Competition was held on Saturday, January 9th at Keefe Tech. Our Cameron "Hot Shots" were Boys' 10,11 yr division: **Charles Hall, Julian Pennant**, Boys' 12,13 yr division: **Michael Figueroa, Dontae Hart**, Girls' 10,11 yr division: **Colleen Meyers**, and Girls' 12,13 yr division: **Sydney Hajduk**. Our participants demonstrated focus and lots of determination. **Colleen Meyers** earned 1st Place in the Girls' 10,11 yr division. **Sydney Hajduk** earned 1st Place in the Girls' 12,13 yr division.

Colleen and Sydney competed in the District Level Competition on January 16th at Keefe Tech.

Congratulations to Colleen Meyers in Grade 6! She won 1st place in the Elks' Hoop Shoot (Foul Shooting Contest) at the District Level Girls 10,11 yr Division. Colleen will compete in the State Competition on Saturday, February 6th in Maynard, MA. Wow! Bravo Colleen!

Congrats to Sydney Hajduk, grade 6, who also competed in the Elks' Hoop Shoot District Level Girls 12,13 yr Division on Saturday, Jan 16th. Sydney finished 2nd Place in the contest. Bravo to Sydney for her 2nd place!

Both girls won first place in their divisions at the Local Level last week, which brought them to this success today.

CAMERON CARES

Cameron participated again this year in Anton's 'Coats for Kids' coat drive. Students, staff, and parents generously donated coats in order to keep others toasty warm this winter. We collected 104 of coats, 46 kid's coats and 58 adults' coats.

Cameron also collects can and bottles for the veteran, and has collected \$72.00 as of January 15th. GREAT EFFORT!

GUIDANCE NEWS UPDATE ON HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULING

In January, Ms. Brennan gave a presentation to the 8th grade students to prepare them for the process of high school planning. They learned new terminology and were given an explanation of how we will be selecting courses for Framingham High School. All students, regardless of where they might attend high school, need to fill out a FHS course selection sheet. Teachers will be making recommendations and giving them to the students, along with program of studies book, to help them select their classes. FHS invites you to an important curriculum night at Framingham High School on **Thursday, February 4th at 7:00 pm**. Teachers and staff from the high school will be present to help answer specific questions you may have. We urge you to attend this meeting.

Keefe Technical High School came in January to present their program to the 8th grade class. Students were given the opportunity to have a tour of the school and see the shops. If you son or daughter did not go on the tour and you are interested in learning more about Keefe, please attend their parent information night on **February 24th from 6:30 – 8:30 pm**. Applications are available for students who are interested in applying. Keefe will interview those who have returned a signed application later this month.

The guidance department has been focusing on bullying prevention in the 6th grade. All 6th grader students participated in discussions and activities regarding various facets of bullying. Some of the topics have included:

- common vocabulary
- friendly versus hurtful teasing
- recognizing and responding to bullying situations
- when and how to get help
- empowering the students to promote a positive school culture

Our goal is to continue these types of activities in the 7th and 8th grade.

Orgullo Latino

This past trimester, *Orgullo Latino*, invited several guest speakers to discuss Latino culture and to encourage students to attend college. Jose Moreno, Assistant Director of Admissions at Framingham State College, spoke about his background growing up in a Latino community and also being the first in his family to attend college. Luis Alvarez, a former Cameron student, spoke about his academic and behavioral challenges while at Cameron and how he was able to go on to become a successful college student at Bridgewater State College. Four former members of the Framingham High School Latino Club, *Adelante*, spoke to students about their experiences in high school and college and answered many questions! On January 29, *Orgullo Latino* will visit Framingham State College and view a presentation by *Amigos*, their college Latino Club.

Student Council

The Student Council has been very busy planning activities for the school, including the 6th and 8th grade dances/activities nights that took place earlier this year. On Tuesday, January 12, members of the Student Council helped out at the successful Spaghetti Supper. Many thanks to *Patience Rawnsley, Sarah Grove, Brendon LeBlanc, Lindsey Hart, Mary Meyers, Joe Goff, Krysta Nichols, Julian Pennant, Billy George, Elena Jacob and Haley Duggan* for being such great wait staff! People were very impressed with the wonderful service!

In February, the Student Council will be hosting a Spirit Week (Feb. 1-Feb. 5). To kick off the second half of the trimester, students will be encouraged to participate in the theme days, bring in pennies and other coins for the Penny Wars (proceeds to benefit the earthquake victims in Haiti) and to bring in non-perishable breakfast

items to be donated to A Place to Turn in Natick. The homeroom with the most spirit will win a breakfast party!

On Thursday, February 25, the Student Council will organize an Activity Night in the gym for 7th grade students. There will be music and games. Admission is \$3.00 with a canned good or \$5.00 without one. The Activity Night will be from 6:30-8:30 pm and refreshments will be available for purchase. Students must have a signed permission slip to attend. Hope to see you there!

Word Masters

Greetings and Happy New Year! We have final results from Word Masters Meet I, held in December. We are very proud of all the Cameron students who challenged themselves by participating in this round.

The following students deserve special recognition for representing not only Cameron, but all the Framingham middle schools on the **Top-Ten Team:**

Congratulations to grade 8 students *Scott Enriquez* who achieved a **perfect** score and *Kate Lessard* whose excellent score placed her on the Top-Ten Team.

In grade 7, we can congratulate *Tammy Karikal* for her outstanding score which placed her on the Top-Ten Framingham Team.

In grade 6 congratulations to *Jeff Oberg* and *Rachel Rogerson* who achieved near perfect scores and *Delaney Lawson* whose score was truly exemplary.

Meet II words are coming soon. All students are encouraged to participate regardless of your Meet I score. We are interested in perseverance and improvement.

**Grade 8 parents
Curriculum Night at
Framingham High School
February 4, 2010 @ 7PM**

Cameron Cares

**We are collecting donations for the
Haiti Relief Fund & the Natick A
Place to Turn Food Bank.**

PTO

**Otis Spunkmeyer cookies
on sale until Thursday,
February 4, 2010.**

February

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1 Team Leader Mtg. 8AM Spirit Week	2 Student of the Month breakfast 9AM School Council 5PM PTO 7PM	3	4 8 th grade parents to FHS for Curriculum Night	5 Long Composition in all grades and collect for Food Bank →	6
7	8 Staff Mtg. 7:55AM	9	10	11	12 Yoko Kawishima Watkins visit	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Vacation Week						
21	22 New teacher mtg. 8AM	23 Medieval presentations grade 8	24	25 7 th grade Activity Night 6:30 – 8:30PM	26	27
28						