



CAMERON CHRONICLE

2009-2010

From the Principal's Desk

I am writing this newsletter in December and can hardly believe that we are more than one third finished with the year and 2010 is just a few days away. How quickly 2009 came and went. I want to wish all of you a healthy new year. We are very enthusiastic about the coming year and feel that many of our new initiatives are really helping students do better academically.

This year we are continuing to emphasize vocabulary across all subject areas. We chose specific vocabulary words that each discipline at each grade level are having students master. We are also setting goals with students regarding reading, writing, and study skills. We are doing RTI, Response to Intervention, and teaching students to be better readers in small group sessions. We have teachers meeting in data teams, before school by department and by grade level. We have homework clubs running every day as part of C-Camp and on Tuesday and Wednesday we have a second homework club that runs from 4:00 to 5:00. We are about to embark on the Spring musical and we continue to hold one hour academic classes in the four core subjects and ensure that students have technology education, health, art, music and physical education. In addition some students participate in a world language while others receive academic support. Teachers are often available in the morning before school commences and in the afternoon at 3:15 to offer extra assistance. We are fortunate to have some high school students help out in homework club

tutoring our students along with our own staff members.

In January we will be holding our annual spaghetti dinner on January 12 from 5:30-6:45pm. All parents are welcome to attend. A small fee that covers the cost of the food will be collected at the door. Teachers are in the kitchen cooking while students are the waiters and hosts for the evening. Some students provide entertainment and we hold a raffle. In addition, the Scholastic book fair will be in the lobby so students can purchase fiction and non-fiction books for their own pleasure and outside reading. Please make a concerted effort to join us on this special evening!

I want to congratulate all the students in the entire school who memorized a poem in the fall. We had some extraordinary recitations and the winners at each grade level are posted in this newsletter. In February we really work on figurative language and poetry but this was a means to spark interest and have students remember a special poem of their choosing.

JANUARY 5TH PTO MEETING WILL BE AT 6:30 AND THEN RELOCATE TO FHS FOR THE 7:30 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

JANUARY 12TH IS THE ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER AND BOOK FAIR FROM 5:30 TO 6:45 IN THE CAFETERIA.

JANUARY 28TH IS A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY WITH AN 11:25 DISMISSAL.

No late busses from January 21 – February 21, 2010.

Students of the Month

Dylan Nichols– Grade 8
Katherine Robles – Grade 8
Larissa Ribas– Grade 7
Louise Baptista – Grade 7
Alexa Michel– Grade 6
Violet McKeown – Grade 6

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

In **social studies** we are studying Asia. We will begin in Southeast, which includes the countries of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. We will study the culture, economy, physical geography, and the political situation. This part of Asia is rich in natural resources and is home to the many fascinating cultures. Once we wrap up our visit to this part of Asia we will move to China.

Science

The 6th grade recently began its most exciting unit to date: Volcanoes! Students on both teams have been working hard on a number of volcano related projects, one of which involves the study and re-creation of an actual volcano. Students will study the topography/geography found near their volcano, the country where the volcano is located, and the geology that make their volcano historically significant. At the end of the unit, we will have our annual “Volcano Summit” where students will have the opportunity to showcase everything they learned. Parents and guardians will be invited for the event. The summit will include maps of the country where

the volcano is located, a model of the volcano, and a short student presentation. The summit will take place January 13th during your child’s science period. If there is a snow day, the Summit will take place the following day!

ELA

Students in Mr. Hepp's language arts classes finished reading *Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie* and wrote some amazing biopoems describing important characters from the novel. Each class also began writing short memoirs titled, *When I Was Little*. The memoirs attempt to describe a humorous or memorable anecdote from their childhood. Students studied and practiced writing complex sentences starting with dependent clauses and ending with independent clauses. Each class also made a trip to the library to check out new books for independent reading. These books should be finished by January 14th, at which time the independent reading packets are due.

In Mrs. Wynn's ELA classes, students finished reading *Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli. Students wrote letters from one character to another as a final writing piece for this novel. Everyone really enjoyed the story, and many students are now reading *Love, Stargirl*. We will begin reading the nonfiction book called *Blizzard* by Jim Murphy in January. It is the story of the famous Blizzard of 1888 which caused such devastation to this area. In addition, all students should be reading an independent novel to be completed by mid-January. Then they will do a project of their own choosing on the novel they have read.

7th Grade

Science: 7th Grade Green and Yellow Teams
In the next unit we will introduce students to the ideas behind evolution. The students will be asked to open their minds regarding this controversial topic and understand that there are different ideas out there about this subject. The class will discuss natural selection and how the strongest survive and then relate this to specific

traits people have inherited over time (Genetics topic was recently discussed). Please remember that all homework can be found on-line at www.yourhomework.com, so check it out!

Social Studies:

Seventh grade Social Studies is broken down into three separate areas, Geography, Ancient Rome, Ancient Greece. Your student is on the second of three rotations. In one section, Geography, students will apply the 5 themes of Geography: Place, Region, Human/Environmental Interaction, and Movement to various countries. Areas of the World we will be studying are South America, Europe, Oceania, Southeast Asia. Projects, technology will be used, along with our Geography text, to bring these areas to life. The first project involves creating a person from an assigned country, to include aspects of the 5 themes. Students will work in pairs using various resources from the text, internet, library, culture-grams, to create their work.

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

Welcome Trimester II students to Ancient Greece! Although Ancient Greece is long in the past we are exploring our connections to the dynamic and unique society. Recently, we have been focusing on geography and the early Greeks, specifically focusing on geography's affects on the development of trade and city-states. Next, we will be studying the government of Ancient Athens and its role in the beginning of democracy.

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

Students have undertaken the study of Ancient Rome. They started with the geography of Italy and analyzed how Rome's location impacted the civilization. This month, our primary discussion focuses on the Etruscans and their influence on the Romans in the seventh and sixth centuries BCE. Students will view a slide show highlighting elements of Etruscan culture and

everyday life that 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 are completing their study of integers and the coordinate graph system. We will than be exploring linear relationships – where a change in one variable results in a fixed change in another variable. The students will represent these changes through tables, graphs and equations. The students will apply their knowledge of linear relationships to real life problems. For example, students will need to select the most cost effective cell phone plan based on the number of minutes they use each month. Students will start their own business and determine how much their product will cost based on cost production. In addition, students will continue to work with the *Impact Series Math Textbook* and work on big book pages.

ELA – Mrs. Micozzi

ELA classes will be starting a poetry unit in which students are reading, writing, and analyzing various types of poems. Our goal for this unit is to have a “toolbox” of strategies that students can use to comprehend the meaning of the poem and respond to it cohesively in writing. A mythology unit and our shared book for trimester two, *The Miracle Worker*, will follow poetry. Co-taught lessons with Ms. Eisenberg will continue to focus on reading and writing strategies for the MCAS. Students have been practicing the Seven Steps to Success on open-response questions, and they will do a simulated long composition with feedback from teachers. Finally, students are reading their second independent reading books and will complete a project with them. Please continue to check yourhomework.com for upcoming assignments and projects. Thank you for your interest and support!

Mrs. Falzone – English Language Arts

Students in Mrs. Falzone's ELA class are finishing up their reading of *The Giver*. The culminating assignment for this novel is an expository essay that requires students to use direct quotations from the text to support their thesis. Students on the Green Team will next read Yoko Kawashima Watkins' memoir *So Far From the Bamboo Grove*. This memoir follows the plight of eleven-year-old Yoko as she struggles to survive against the backdrop of war. Additionally, students will begin work on their second outside reading book project this year. In mid-January, students will have a cumulative exam that includes vocabulary words from the first trimester.

8 Yellow & Green Teams

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

The 8th grade has finished reading *To Kill A Mockingbird*. They enjoyed it very much and were pleased with the book's ending. They are currently working on some post reading activities, which include analyzing some important quotes found throughout the book. They also had a chance to watch the movie and compare and contrast it to the novel. The students continue to work hard on various writing pieces. One major upcoming piece is a character sketch about a character they read about in *To Kill A Mockingbird*.

Mr. Manning – Social Studies

We will be studying Europe in the middle ages. We will study the development of European countries and the political, social, and economic forces that forged them.

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

Before the break, students finished studying solving equations and inequalities. When we return in January, we will start our unit on linear equations, including graphing. In January, students will take the district assessment for the

second time to measure their growth in math since September.

Algebra – Ms. Greaney and Ms. Rensko

Students recently finished their unit on rates, proportions and percents. They seemed to enjoy all the real life applications of these math concepts. We are now studying functions, which the gateway to the rest of the algebra 1 curriculum. In January, we will be having the midyear exam, which will cover chapters 1 through 5. Students should pay attention to the concepts reviewed in the "Blasts From the Past" to help students prepare for the midyear exam.

Physical Science: Mrs. Vora

In our physical science class, the students researched the atomic theories proposed by different scientists. They created a quiz and mastered the topic. The students will continue studying the structure of an atom and different subatomic particles. They will soon learn about the periodic table, arrangements of various elements in it, various groups of elements, and how and why the elements react with each other. Students will then research an element of their choice and will create an element t-shirt for that element.

Spanish with Miss Jimenez

Sixth graders have been learning adjectives, colors, how to identify genders in nouns, and TPR actions all from one little story called "Mi perro es el mejor". The students have enjoyed reading this story learning new vocabulary and creating their own storyboards as a final project. I collaborated with Ms. Eisenberg, Literacy teacher and we created a fun unit for students to enjoy. We invited Ms. Eisenberg to our class to see the final projects, which they read and acted out with TPR actions. It was a wonderful storytelling hour.

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 December, the students have focused on the theme of "GIVING." Students made gifts for families, bus drivers, and others. They also planned and shopped for gifts for a gift exchange in class. They also made ornaments and cards for the giving tree project. TEC students continue to spend time with all their friends at Cameron during homeroom, art classes, cafeteria and recess.

HEALTH EDUCATION

6th grade - The *Health Triangle* is made up of three parts representing the physical, mental/emotional and social issues necessary for good health. The curriculum covers topics that fall into all of these categories. As part of the physical health unit, the students will be keeping track of all the food they eat for one day. They will use this information to see how many servings they had from each of the food groups. They will also analyze food labels and use the computer lab to participate in fun nutrition activities.

7th grade - The students will learn basic first aid including CPR and what to do if someone is choking. Mrs. Renault, our school nurse, will be visiting the health classes to demonstrate how the defibrillator is used. Cameron has two AEDs in the building. One is located on the first floor next to the nurse's office. The other one is directly above on the second floor. The students will also learn about accident prevention and when it is necessary to make a 911 call in an emergency situation.

8th grade - Currently the students are involved in their violence prevention unit. Some of the topics covered include sexual harassment, reasons for teen violence, anger management with ways to reduce stress, prejudice, revenge, and safe schools. An assignment that they will soon be working on is to write an essay about a situation when someone became angry and

describe how they could have reacted differently to prevent a violent outcome.

Art Update

All students are busy at work on their first projects for the term. The sixth graders are studying the art of Frida Kahlo and creating a mask that shows two parts of who they are or their personality. Seventh graders, once again, are studying the Art of Japan, Ukiyo-e, and creating paintings inspired by it. Students in eighth grade are learning about Fauvism and creating animal paintings in the Fauvist style.

The annual Scholastic Art Awards competition has begun in Boston. This year we had fifteen students who submitted work. Congratulations goes out to: **Kevin Costa, Emily Frank, Stephanie Lopez, Lorena Bicalho, Caroline Frazier, Kate Lessard, Nick Sturim, Dorothy Carpio, Christine LaBelle, Kimmy Cohen, Brianne Hansen, Lucas Brandao, Eric Bacote, Jake O'Brien, and Megan LaPlant.**

GOING GREEN

The students in the "Going Green" after school program continue to work hard in their recycling efforts, and keep Cameron Middle School as the leader in recycling for the district. They are charting the amount of material recycled each week with the help of Carlos and Dave, the custodians, and have saved about 18,000 pounds of material from going to a landfill or incinerator. GREAT JOB! They recently initiated a program where they want to put a plant in every class. The kids have taken cuttings from plants and began rooting them in Ms. Armstrong's room, and have put out a sign up sheet for teachers who want plants. These young Environmentalist will water and take of these plants weekly, as well as provide "Info" sheets on the plants that they research. They also give daily "Environmental" tips during morning announcements.

GUIDANCE NEWS

The eighth graders are about to begin the process of high school scheduling! January will be a busy month. Please mark your calendars with these important dates:

JANUARY 5th – Keefe Technical High School will give a presentation to our 8th grade students.

JANUARY 13th - 8th grade students who are interested in attending Keefe will have the opportunity to visit the school. Permission slips are required.

FEBRUARY 4th Framingham High School will host the annual curriculum night for parents of all grade 8 parents/guardians and high school students.

Teachers will be available to help you with specific questions about 9th grade courses. The meeting will take place at FHS from 7:00 – 9:00 PM.

Upcoming dates: FHS will be scheduling an evening for parents of middle school students at the high school. Look for the date in our next newsletter.

Keefe Technical High School held an informational pancake breakfast earlier this year but a date will be coming out soon for another opportunity for parents and guardians to visit Keefe Tech with their sons and daughters.

The guidance counselor met with the 8th grade students in December to go over general high school planning. They were given information about course selections and how to get ready for next year. Students are encouraged to make appointments with Ms. Brennan regarding specific questions or if they need help with making course selections.

Teachers will begin to make Framingham High School placement recommendations for every individual student during the month of January. Students will bring these recommendations home to you along with a program of study

booklet. We ask you to sit down with your son or daughter, complete a course selection sheet and return it to the guidance office.

Students who are interested in applying to Keefe Technical High School will be asked to have you complete an application. A representative from Keefe will interview interested students at Cameron who have turned in their signed application forms.

Please feel free to call Ms Brennan at 508-879-2290 ext. 3116 with any questions.

Poetry Contest

This year's winners of the poetry recitation contest are the following students. They performed their poems in their English classroom and in the auditorium to all their grade-level peers. Their final recitation was before a panel of judges including Dr. Hirsche, Superintendent of School, Dr. Tyrie, Assistant Superintendent of School, Mr Mike Welch, FHS Principal, Mr. McDonald, Stapleton Principal, Mr. Robin Welch, Woodrow Wilson principal, Ms Waldstein, the ELA and SS Coordinator K-12, Ms mangini, our librarian, and Ms Eisenberg, literacy specialist. They did a marvelous job and they are all winners!

Grade 6
Elexus Johnson
Elena Jacob

Julian Pennant
Greg Savino
Grade 7
Brendon Williams
Larry Crawshaw
Polly DeSa
Mike Montuori
Dayra Faria and Laryssa DaSilveira

Grade 8
Brendan LeBlanc
Tristan Olsen
Brianne Hansen
Josh Billings

January

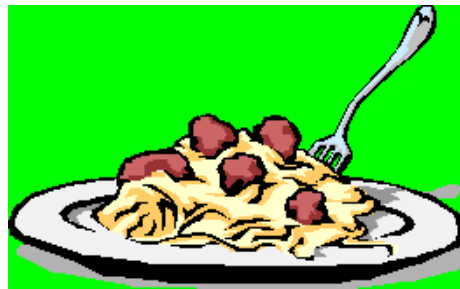
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1	2
3	4 Students return from break. Team Leader Mtg. – 8AM	5 Keefe Tech visits and speaks to 8 th grade. School Council – 5PM PTO – 6:30PM School Comm. @FHS 7:30PM	6	7	8 Collect canned goods for local food bank.	9
10	11 Staff Mtg. 7:55AM	12 Spaghetti dinner and Book Fair 5:30 – 6:45PM	13 8 th grade field trip to Keefe Tech	14	15	16
17	18 No School – MLK Day	19 FHS hosts 3 middle schools to discuss FHS and College 7PM	20	21 Jazz band concert for 6 th grade 10AM Winter Concert 7-8PM	22	23
24	25	26 Trimester II grades close	27	28 Half day <u>11:25</u> dismissal – Professional Dev. Day	29	30
31						

**CAMERON MIDDLE SCHOOL
ALL ARE INVITED!!!
SPAGHETTI DINNER FOR THE ENTIRE
FAMILY**

January 12, 2009

5:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

IN THE CAFETERIA



**Spaghetti, salad, bread, desserts...
and raffling off prizes, too!
All are invited to attend!**

This is a winter fundraiser for the students in grades six, seven, and eight. This will help fund fieldtrips and end-of-the-year trips. Please support the school and come to this special family night spaghetti dinner and have fun!

\$7.00 per person or \$25.00 per family

**For more information contact the
Main Office at (508) 879-2290**

**Stop by and enjoy our Book Fair at the same
time.**