



CAMERON CHRONICLE

2009-2010

From the Principal's Desk

February was certainly a very cold month. With luck March will have warmer weather and not too much snow. Even with the chilly weather we spent a lot of time doing some very good deeds. We collected money for the Haiti Relief effort and we surpassed our expectations. We actually collected \$780 after one month. Some of the money was sent to the American Red Cross efforts and some to the Clinton Bush Haiti fund. We also collected food for the food pantry and the Cooperative Bank will pay 25 cents for each pound of food we collect. Mrs. Huekell and her homeroom have taken on this effort and will help collect food for the remainder of the year. Mr. McElearney collects cans and paper and has raised quite a bit of money for the Veteran's Association. As a result, many students are becoming more involved in helping others.

Having Yoko Kawishima Watkins here at the end of the month was great. As always the seventh grade students loved listening to her stories and learning from her adventures. She teaches students about respect and pride. It is amazing to hear her talk and we are so fortunate that she returns every year. Now that March is here we have some events to look forward to. If you bought some Otis Spunkmeyer cookie dough you can come by the school on Wednesday, March 3 from 3:15 to 6:00 to pick it up. If your student sold a few cartons they can bring them home but if your child sold many cartons you will need to come to the school that afternoon and we will help you put them into your car. Thanks for supporting this fund raising effort. The profit helps pay for field trips in all three grades.

On Thursday night, March 4, at Framingham High School there will be a special musical production called, Music in Schools. Bands and choruses from all the middle schools and the HS will entertain you. It begins at 6:30 in the HS auditorium. On Wednesday, March 10 please take the coupon attached to this newsletter and either bring the family to eat at UNO'S pizza on Route 9 or order take out and bring the pizza home. When you use the coupon the restaurant donates some of their profits to our school.

On Thursday, March 11 from 7:00-8:30 we will host parents and guardians of grade 5 who might be attending Cameron MS next year. The curriculum will be discussed and students and parents will see sixth grade classrooms. It is a great informative evening for those who wish to know more about our classes and events.

Trimester two ends on March 16 and we embark on the last trimester. Hard to believe! That same night we are holding an amazing Academic Night when teachers and students will present information on all the material they have been learning. We are hoping for a large crowd of parents to come with their children to see displays, museum work and participate in activities. It begins at 7:00 and goes until 8:00pm. Please put this on your calendar.

And finally the MCAS English tests are in March. Attached are the times we will be administering them. We need your help letting students know that these tests are important. They should get a good night's sleep and a hearty breakfast the day of the

exam so they can put forth their best work. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Have a great month and look out for my Monday announcements to further inform you as to what is happening at Cameron Middle School.

Students of the Month

Ronaldo De Souza– Grade 8

Monique Da Silva – Grade 8

Makayla McKenna– Grade 7

Zachary Schiloski – Grade 7

Sara Dilbarian– Grade 6

Aline Falleiros – Grade 6

Team News

In Mrs. Wynn's ELA classes, students continue to improve their writing skills through the Framingham State Epal Program. The improvement is obvious for students who are doing the required writing of twice a week or more. Please encourage your child to write FROM HOME twice a week. Students love having college mentors to talk to about school, friends, hobbies, and college life. We have also been working on parts of speech by making study flipbooks for kids to use. After the vacation, we will continue to study these. On Day 1 of the six day cycle, we are preparing for MCAS by learning the steps to use when answering questions and by practicing open response answers. Students are taking this very seriously and are doing well.

Sixth Grade Mathematics for the Green and Yellow Teams

Students continue to explore how percents can be used to compare parts of different wholes. Such comparisons are often made when similar types of data are collected from two different groups of people within a population. They will see that percents are often much easier to use than fractions. Ask your child what the favorite sport to watch is for their class, the world, and the United States. Ask your child to which family their fraction baby belongs. Finally students will be calculating the percent of quantity. How much will you pay if you buy a pair of jeans for \$35.00 with a 30% discount?

7th Grade

Science: 7th Grade Green and Yellow Teams

In both science classrooms, students had fun when they used their imagination and created various creatures with all sorts of characteristics. After we talked about Classification and had mentioned a variety of kingdoms, we transitioned to the Human Body. Since humans are classified as animals, right along with spiders, fish, reptiles, and many other wonderful organisms, we used this to transition us into a fun unit on numerous body systems.

In this unit, students will learn about the digestive, respiratory, circulatory, excretory, immune, skeletal, muscular, and nervous systems through a variety of exciting, hands-on activities. Over the next few weeks, ask your student about their recent experiences in science. I'm sure they'll amaze you with their newfound knowledge about the body.

Some of you may not be aware that Mrs. Callanan is pregnant and will be taking a few weeks off for maternity leave. She plans to return in mid-May. In her absence, Mr. Granfield will be working with your child. He has an education degree from Pennsylvania State University and has been a substitute teacher throughout the Framingham Public Schools. If you have any questions you can contact your students' other green team teachers or Mrs. Kelly as they are all very knowledgeable about your children and their specific needs.

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

Social Studies:

In Mrs. Callanan's and Mr. Hamm's social studies classes, students recently study two of ancient Greece's most famous city-states, Athens and Sparta. Currently, students are hard at work learning about the cause, course and consequences of both the Persian and Peloponnesian Wars. Students are also creating mobile timelines about the specifics of each war.

Math – Mrs. Maquire

The students on the yellow team just finished studying similar and congruent figures. The next chapter we will examine is on proportions. Students will work with real-life proportions such as recipes, shapes and the natural proportions within the human body. Students will work in groups and complete the chapter with another big book page that will help them study for the MCAS test in May.

ELA – Mrs. Micozzi

Mrs. Micozzi's classes have completed a mythology and folktales unit and have started a drama unit. Our shared text for this unit is *The Miracle Worker* by William Gibson. We are reading the text aloud in class and watching clips of the film to deepen our understanding of the play. We also continue to work on our MCAS preparations, as the test is quickly approaching. Students have shown excellent effort while practicing for the open-response and long composition portions. They have received feedback from teachers in individual writing conferences.

8 Yellow & Green Teams

Mr. Manning/Mr. Fauth – Social Studies

The 8th grade students finished up their projects on an aspect of Medieval European life (due date was Feb. 23). In March, the students will primarily learn about Indian history, during the Medieval time period. Mrs. Trupti Vora will also educate and entertain the students by having our traditional "India Day" in March.

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

In Grade 8 math students are studying rates, unit rates, ratios, and percents. They will be using real life examples to calculate tips, sale discounts and tax.

Algebra – Ms. Greaney and Ms. Rensko

In Algebra students just finished studying the three forms of linear equations. After break, students will complete a project called "Bungee Barbie". Students estimated the length of a bungee cord using scatter plots and the line of best fit. The goal is to bungee Barbie off the balcony without

hitting the floor! Stay tune for the next newsletter to see which student successfully had the best jump!

8th Grade Language Arts

Mrs. Piantedosi, Ms. McCullen, and Mr. Neveu The 8th grade has finished reading the *House on Mango Street*. For most students this was a unique book to read, since the story is written in a series of vignettes. The students wrote their own vignettes and created their own vignette books. These books were shared and put in their portfolios as a reminder of how hard the students have been working. The students are now concentrating on poetry. They will learn about poetic terms, types of poems, and famous poets. Best of all, the students will be able to write and recite their own poems.

Physical Science: Mrs. Vora

Students in the physical science class continued their study of the chemical properties of different elements and compounds. They observed the demonstrations of various kinds of chemical reactions. They conducted experiments in which they could observe physical and chemical changes. The students practiced writing chemical equations, as they interpreted and balanced them. They understood the need to balance chemical equations in relation to the law of conservation of mass. They also learnt about endothermic and exothermic reactions. Students watched many discrepant events and had fun and got motivated to explore the scientific explanation of each activity. They will soon be learning physics as part of Physical Science.

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 and February, students completed a unit about different things that make up a healthy body. Student learned a great deal on exercise and ways to prepare healthy snacks. Students also took a trip to the JFK library as well as several swimming trips. Art class with Ms. Cummins continues to be a lot of fun and hard work. Cameron students continue to come to do various activities with our students.

HEALTH EDUCATION

6th grade - The trimester 2 classes have started their puberty unit. The students will be learning about the physical, emotional and social changes that are associated with puberty. They will be able to identify these changes and hopefully be prepared for this exciting and sometimes confusing time in their lives. A question box is used in the classroom for students to ask questions anonymously.

7th grade - The students are now involved in activities to help them become critical thinkers regarding media messages about alcohol, tobacco and other drug usage. The students will be able to actively interpret what they see and hear, rather than being passively influenced by the media. Analyzing alcohol and tobacco magazine advertisements is one of their class activities.

8th grade - Substance abuse brochures have been created by the students and are on display in the health classroom for all the classes to read. They are very informative and impressive. Class activities, web sites, videos and discussions are used to study the effects of alcohol and drugs. The students are also reading excerpts from the book, "Go Ask Alice" based on the actual diary of a fifteen-year-old drug user. A letter to the parents/guardians went home with the students to tell them about this book. This letter should be returned if they do not give their consent to have their child read it.

Tech Ed Tads

Mr. Hajjar's Technology Education (Trimester 2) classes have been doing great. Each grade is creating an appropriate project that supports the expectations of the Department of Education's frameworks. Emphasis is on the problem-solving element of the framework (referred to as the Engineering Design Process).

The sixth graders have learned the tools of Microsoft Word and created fabulous advertisements and businesses cards. These graphics are extraordinary for the grade level work.

They are hanging proud in the hallway between the Technology Labs. Next, they will learn to measure. Students will convert various measurements to sixteenths of an inch and reduce those measurements to the lowest terms. Using this knowledge, they will construct rockets from "scratch" (not kits). The related vocabulary and concepts, along with understanding a simple electrical circuit used to fire the rockets, will follow. They are really excited! A launch will be scheduled after the snow melts.

The seventh graders will review measuring and learn the new concept of measuring to scale. The problem solving activity is a Strongest Bridge Contest" or "Building a Model House to Scale" activity. The houses truly look realistic (being built to scale) and are fun to make. Some students will design and build a bridge of their choice using their knowledge of the different types of bridge structures. Each student receives fourteen feet of 1/16" x 1/16" wood strips. The record weight for the Cameron contest is now sixty-eight pounds. The long-standing record of sixty-four pounds was topped in the third semester of last year. We will see if anyone can beat this new record.

Eighth graders finished a lesson on "Systems of a Transportation Vehicle" and started the "Electric Vehicle Race Car" assignment – still a favorite at Cameron. Students work in teams to design, build and redesign an electric powered vehicle. Each team receives an identical motor, power source and strict rules to follow. A company name, logo, slogan and sponsors are incorporated into the activity. A team number and sponsor must be displayed on the car. The race is always interesting, to say the least, and the competition can get fierce! Good luck to all the teams.

♪ From the Band Room...

Save the Date:

Thurs. **March 4**, 2010 – Music in Our Schools
Concert and Workshops
@ FHS; Jazz Band - 9:30am-2:15pm/ Jazz
Band & Orchestra
6:30pm

Friday, **March 12**, 2010 – Jazz Band Concert at
Potter Road School 9am-10:45am
(Rehearsal 8-9am Wear Black polo shirts)

April/May TBA – Community Prayer Breakfast
Sheraton, Framingham 7:00am

Wednesday, **May 5**, 2010 – Jazz Band performs @
Callahan Senior Center
& Pizza Lunch 10:00AM-2:00PM

From the Nurse's Desk

Parents of grade 6 and grade 7 students:
Massachusetts law requires that schools receive
reports of physical examinations in Kindergarten,
Grades 1, 4, 7, and 10. Your healthcare provider's
physical examination form is acceptable. Please
send in a copy of your child's physical exam as
soon as possible if you have not already submitted a
copy.

Parents of all students new to Framingham Public
Schools must provide a signed physical examination
performed by a health care provider, conducted
within 6 months of entry into the school.

Parents of grade 6 students, the state also requires
certain immunizations before students enter grade 7.
These must be on file in my office before your child
can return for grade 7. If your child has already
received their immunizations this year please send
them to my office. If you do not know if they are
here please feel free to call or email me. If they
have not received their immunizations please
contact your child's doctor for an appointment and
send them in to me as soon as you get them.

UNO FUNDRAISER

On March 10 eat or order
take out from Uno's &
use the attached coupons

Cameron Parents, Families and Friends,

You are cordially invited to attend
Cameron's First Annual Academic March
Madness Night on Tuesday Evening, March
16th from 7-8 p.m.

This event incorporates the presentations
previously shown at Math, Literacy &
Visual Arts Night, as well as demonstrations
from other academic subject areas and
school-wide initiatives. The exemplary
work of many of our students will be
showcased at this event. We hope you will
join us as we celebrate the exciting projects
and activities taking place in Cameron
classrooms this school year!

March

<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. 3:15PM	2 School Council 5PM PTO 7PM	3 Otis Spunkmeyer pick up 3:15- 6:00PM	4 Music in Schools F.H.S.	5 Collection of food for Food Bank	6
7	8 Staff Mtg. 7:55AM	9	10	11 5 th grade Parent Orientation 7-8:30PM	12	13
14	15	16 Book Fair/Exhibition Night 7-8PM Trimester II Ends	17 Book Fair	18 Salute to Framingham	19	20
21	22	23 Trimester II report cards go home	24	25 Early Release – Professional Dev. 12:10PM	26	27
28	29	30	31			

One for you & 3 to share!

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