



CAMERON CHRONICLE

2011-2012

From the Principal's Desk

I want to first thank **Roche Bros** for donating 16 turkeys for our annual Thanksgiving Day drive. They are a fantastic grocery store that is more than generous to Cameron Middle school and our families. We were able to give away 16 full Thanksgiving Day meals due to the generosity of this grocery store along with a \$25 gift card from **Stop & Shop**. Both stores are good friends to our Cameron community. In addition, Cameron students and their families donated canned goods, potatoes, and rice that made all of the meals complete and wonderful. We are thankful to everyone who made a contribution! A special thanks goes to Ms. Samantha Rabinowicz for overseeing this initiative.

Our Yard/Craft/Bake sale was a huge hit on November 19. Thank you to people who gave us items to sell as well as those who came and purchased items. It was a lovely day and it was nice to be able to raise money to help purchase technology and curriculum items. A special thanks to Mary Beth Duggan and to all the parents and staff members who volunteered and helped us set up along with past parents such as Carolyn Griffin who gave of her time and expertise.

Breakfast with the Principal for the students of the month will be held on December 1st. The students who have this honor are listed in the newsletter. As always they have a breakfast with the principal, are able to do the morning announcements for the month, their pictures are in the library showcase in the hallway, and they are recognized by the PTO! These students are chosen by teachers based on their positive attitude, excellent behavior, and good citizenship.

Our musical this year will be on December 15 and 16. The students will be performing *Once on this Island* and rehearsals are going well. We will be selling tickets ahead of time in the office or you may purchase them at the door. Both performances begin at 7:00 p.m. and the show will be in the auditorium. Please come and bring your relatives and neighbors!

We are also finishing trimester one on December 1st and will be holding our Honors Breakfast for those students who make all A's and achieved high honors as well as those who make all A's and B's and are on the honor roll. These are tentatively scheduled for December 20 for grades 7 and 8 and December 21 for grade 6. They begin at 8:30 a.m. and usually are finished by 9:00 or 9:15 at the latest so parents and guardians can get to work.

LaCantina Restaurant has announced that they are donating a percentage of their proceeds every Tuesday night to the Framingham Public Schools food program. Money will go towards the lunch debts incurred and to help children and families who are having difficulty paying for school lunches. They have already donated over \$5,000. The more customers they have, the more they make and donate to the Framingham Food Program! Thank you for your support.

Have a great month and a nice holiday season!

Students of the Month

Rafaela Vilela – Grade 8
Victoria Oliveira – Grade 8
Kaycie Downing – Grade 7
Katherine Castro – Grade 7
Michelle Hom – Grade 6
Jill Rotatori – grade 6

Team News

Grade 6 – Green Team

Students in Mr. Hepp's language arts class recently completed some great book projects. Check out the posters in the library and the sixth grade hallway advertising books that students read independently. Students are also reading *Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie* in class while focusing on characterization, theme, and summarizing. In addition, students are working on writing skills. Currently the focus is giving multiple pieces of evidence to support a topic sentence.

Mr. Nolan - Science

Green team science has been continuing it's study of planet Earth. Having just completed our unit on continental drift and seafloor spreading, we have now begun our study of plate tectonics. The study of plate tectonics is a logical progression as it applies aspects from the two previous units into one singular theory. Along with studying the movement of Earth's plates, we've also begun discussing faults and the types of stress that help create them. The

three units are interlaced, making it extremely easy to form connections. We've completed numerous assessments ranging from the completion of mini-projects in class, to formal test and quizzes. We've been making great progress thus far, and I'm hoping to carry that momentum into our next unit: Earthquakes!

Grade 6 – Yellow Team

In Mrs. Wynn's ELA classes, students are finishing up the novel *Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie*. It is so much fun because they cannot wait to read the story each day. We have had three vocabulary tests already, and many students are telling me how they use the words at home. Ask your child about the many vocabulary words learned this month. Epals continues to be a required assignment to be done twice a week. College students are doing a great job with the kids. It's amazing to read the emails that are being exchanged. On December 16, kids will be doing Book Talks again in class. Please make sure your child is reading a novel for this assignment.

Mr. Fauth – Social Studies

In Social Studies, we are in the midst of learning about Africa. First, we studied Southern Africa and its history with apartheid. Then, we studied West Africa and its history in the Triangle Trade. Over the past two weeks, we have been studying about North Africa and its behemoth desert, the Sahara. However, we also will take a bit of a detour from our African studies to engage in a project that 17,000 other students are doing around the world-- "The Flat Stanley Project."

Mr. Baptista – Science

Yellow 6 Science students seem to have thoroughly enjoyed their "Sea Floor Spreading" formative assessment, to the point where they no longer are concerned with and actually welcome testing scenarios. We all enjoy collecting and analyzing data, including our "Goal Setting Sheet" parents have signed off on. Daily reflection journal entries allow for discussion of hot topics of current interest in Earth and Space Science, as we mold our habits of mind to learn how to make informed decisions in

the global society we inhabit. The theory of plate tectonics studies has already begun and that will soon lead us into major topics such as Earthquakes and Volcanoes. Both the former and especially the latter is always a unit that the students look forward to studying because of the inherently hands-on nature or aspect of the research we conduct. Our *Read for Real* activities and the once-a-rotation Citizenship work is on track, as students learn, practice, and apply their reading strategies. Although out Lit Lab and content classes regularly use the strategies and tools provided in the *Thinkquiry* materials, we are striving to learn that summarizing is applicable in all walks of life. Two-Column Note Taking, Sum It Up, and Reciprocal Teaching Note Taking templates are among the tools we are using. Preview, predict, visualize, connect, question, clarify, evaluate are the operative terms in our daily work in Room Lab # 115. A date that was dubbed as the Baptista Bash is pre-planned for November 28th and we will hopefully have an opportunity to celebrate our many accomplishments. Please continue to ask your children about their school work as they share their insights with their parents, sibling, other family members and the community at-large.

Sixth Grade Mathematics Green and Yellow Team

The sixth grade yellow and green teams have begun an exciting year of mathematics. The students are realizing that mathematics is more than just adding and subtracting numbers. Mathematics has been called the “science of patterns”. Recognizing and describing patterns and using patterns to make predictions are important mathematical skills. Students have had the opportunity to explore some famous patterns such as the Fibonacci sequence and Pascal’s triangle. They used addition patterns to create a geometric design and find the sum of many numbers. Recently they have used used input/output tables to recognize patterns and write rules. Students played the “Guess My Rule” game to reinforce this concept.

Grade 7 – Green Team

Mrs. Callanan’s Science Class

Over the last couple of weeks, students have become experts on photosynthesis and cellular respiration. It has been an exciting time in science. We have done a lot of learning through various songs, especially those relating to photosynthesis, a ‘fundamental process’. Next, students will be hard at work on learning about major systems in the human body.

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Mr. Kalinowski’s Social Studies Class

It seems as if the first trimester has just flown by. Just weeks ago we began studying South America and then move along to Australia and New Zealand in our geography classes. We are completing the trimester learning more about the peoples of Polynesia and the interesting and complex relationship that these natives have forged with the more recent arrivals from European countries. Before leaving geography and moving on to several sections of history we will complete our study of the region by moving to Southeast Asia and Indonesia. Both of these sections of the world have had a profound impact on American life in the last 50 years and are destined to continue to influence our culture in the decades to come. Shortly, we will begin the study of ancient Greece which leads directly to early Roman history. It is obvious that both of these cultures are vitally important to our understanding of modern American society. It is in both these cultures that the political, economic, moral and artistic values which this country was founded upon had their roots. There is an old saying "those who are unwilling to learn from history’s mistakes are bound to repeat them". There is much that is positive about the Roman and Greek models for civilization; but there are also many things that do not bear repeating. We will spend a great deal of time learning about all aspects of these two civilizations and discussing how they are relevant to our lives today. Your children have been both engaged and excited in the study of world geography and I'm sure that this enthusiasm will continue as the year moves forward.

Mr. Linet's Math Class

In Mr. Linet and Mr. Giacobazzi's math classes students are finishing the study of three dimensional figures, rectangular prisms and cylinders, surface area and volume. New Common Core, task oriented assessment tools have been woven in as practice for future standards.

Next unit contains further number sense including the laws of positive exponents, and scientific notation, the study of large numbers. Students will be able to use these concepts in appropriate circumstances, including the description of the solar system, and monetary statistics.

We have integrated technology to allow students to obtain increased communication, additional material to review and extend learning such as edmodo.com, tenmarks.com, assistments.org and labyrinth.thinkport.org

Mrs. Piantedosi's ELA Class

The students in Mrs. Piantedosi's ELA class have completed reading *So Far From the Bamboo Grove*. The students thoroughly enjoyed the novel and were inspired by Yoko's story. They continue to explore the themes in the novel and analyze the characters. They are currently working on a character sketch essay that will require them to choose a character, list the character's characteristics, and find evidence in the text where the character demonstrates these characteristics. Additionally, students continue to work on their grammar and vocabulary skills through daily exercises.

Grade 7 – Yellow Team

Mr. Hamm- Life Science

Students will transition from our Cells unit into our Human Body Unit. In this section they will cover a unit on the Human Body. Students will complete numerous hands-on activities centered on the structures and functions of the major systems of the body. Some lessons will have students build arm and spinal cord models, measure and compare muscle size vs. muscle strength, explore muscle fatigue, investigate the heart (pump), and other neat and exciting activities. Students will play the game,

“Pictionary”, with the vocabulary found in this unit to help build understanding with these terms. We will play a game called “Human Body Jingo”, which is similar to “Bingo”, but pictures replace numbers on the player's cards.

Students are always engaged throughout this unit and have fun learning about the major systems of the body.

Mr. Dee – ELA

Mr. Dee's Language Arts classes are finishing up *The Miracle Worker* as we enter December. Students have engaged in lively discussions analyzing this play and will finish up with an essay. We are also working on revising our first practice of the MCAS Long Composition. This is designed to expose students to the type of writing they will be expected to produce this spring. This exercise takes the students through all the steps of the writing process.

Ms. Rabinowicz and Mr. Giacobozzi – Math

As a culmination to our volume and surface area unit, students made Thanksgiving baskets to donate to “A Place to Turn”. With contributions from the entire school, our students applied their knowledge of volume and surface area to package the Thanksgiving baskets in the most efficient way. This group project truly represented the spirit of Thanksgiving and the students did an exceptional job leading the way. Our next unit will be an exploration of exponents. Student will learn the laws of exponents and deepen their understanding of algebraic expressions.

Mr. Davis – Social Studies

We are currently studying Australia, New Zealand, and Oceania. The remote locations of these places make them a wonderful place to study. The landforms are strange and unique, much like the animals that inhabit this region.

Our study will include the cultural and historical background of this region and how physical landscapes play a large role in the location of people. We will also spend some time discussing how living in such remote places presents in own

challenges. For some in Australia a drive to the store can up six hours!

As always if you have had the chance to travel to any of these locations and would be willing to share pictures and or experiences please contact me.

Grade 8 – Green Team

ELA - Mr. Neveu

As Thanksgiving and the winter holidays quickly approach, Mr. Neveu's ELA classes are currently entrenched in a short story unit. This unit has encompassed 6 short stories from an array of authors and genres. The students have been navigating the texts and making connections to the Eighth Grade overall theme of "Man's Inhumanity to Man". As a companion piece to their in class learning, students have been working on Independent Reading Projects. They are required to read a novel a month, and November signifies the second novel of this assignment. Mr. Neveu encourages them to manage their time wisely and continue reading; because the more you read the better you become at your reading, writing, and overall communication skills.

World History - Mr. Neveu

Students in Mr. Neveu's World History class have spent the last few weeks navigating through the vast and culturally dynamic continent of Africa. They have been studying Africa's geography and how it affected the development of its people as well as the social structure of its population especially in the great Western African Empires of Ghana, Mali, and Songhai. As the trimester comes to a close, they will be spending the remainder of days focusing on Medieval Japan. Mr. Neveu wants his class to know that it was a pleasure working with them and wishes them the very best throughout the remainder of the school year.

Science – Mrs. Vora

In 8th 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 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.

World History – Mrs. Vora

Students in history class are learning about origin of Islam, as well as about culture and civilization of Middle Eastern countries. They are currently exploring geography and lifestyles of people living in that region. They will use various audio-visual tools and do hands-on activities to learn this information. Students will also study about spread of Islam and its effect on the world.

Grade 8 – Yellow Team

Mr. Silva - ELA

Students are currently wrapping up the short stories unit, of which we have one left. Thus far we have read, "The Most Dangerous Game", "Raymond's Run", "Ransom of Red Chief", "Lady or the Tiger", "The Bet", and we are currently discussing and finishing up "Rain, Rain". We will close out with "Lemon Brown". We have had one major test for two of the stories and the students will be taking another on the remaining stories later this week. We have additionally had several quizzes and some longer writing assignments as well as grammar activities sprinkled throughout each story. As for the future, we look forward to our poetry unit, which includes but is not limited to, "House on Mango Street".

Spanish

Students in Señorita Blake and Señorita Jiménez's classes have been hard at work!

In 6th grade we have mastered the numbers zero through one thousand. We can also use ordinal numbers: first through tenth, and the Spanish colors. Students really enjoyed a handout using a graphic of an ice cream cone with ten scoops and full Spanish directions such as "Color the ninth scoop orange." They were excited to see that their ice cream cone

matched their teachers' showing that they know the numbers and the colors.

In 7th grade we have learned question words and the importance of phrasing Spanish questions correctly. Students learned a song made up by Señorita Jiménez using the question words to the tune of Jingle Bells and many could be heard singing it throughout the school. We also picked up where we left off last year with the number one thousand and now we can count to a billion! Now we are learning clothing words and are really looking forward to the class fashion show.

Eighth graders finished their airport unit with two sets of vocabulary. Should they ever take a trip to a Spanish-speaking country they can get around the airport with ease. They can also form Spanish present progressive sentences, which is the English -ing, such as "I am eating." Culturally students have learned about the sport of "lucha libre," free wrestling, and how relevant it is in Mexico. If you have ever seen the movie *Nacho Libre*, they can now explain to you the similarities and differences between the movie's portrayal and the real Mexican sport.

**All students in Señorita Blake's classes are very excited about the safe text/email alerts through the website www.remind101.com. If you or your student would like to sign up, please contact her at eblake@framingham.k12.ma.us for instructions.

Students have completed more homework since signing up for these alerts and they are highly recommended!**

♪ Music Notes:

- Jazz Band had its first performance of the year at the school wide MCAS assemblies on November 17th.
- Jazz Band **polo shirts** are on sale until December 1st. Shirts are \$16 and checks can be made out to Cameron Middle School.

- **"Once On This Island"** tickets go on sale December 5th. Tickets are \$6 in advance and \$8 at the door. Show dates are December 15 & 16 @ 7:00pm.
- Jazz Band will be performing their first **"Jazz @ Lunch"** at the end of December. Be ready to be entertained.
- The **Winter Instrumental Music Concert** is Thursday, January 12, 2012 at 10am & 7pm. Admission is free! Performing groups will include Grade 6 Band, Grade 7&8 Band, Grade 6-8 Orchestra and Jazz Band. Over 200 students will share their musical talents – be sure to mark your calendar!

Mrs. Faletra - TEC Classroom

The TEC Classroom is our program for students who have multiple disabilities. This month, the students were busy helping with the school fundraiser to help veterans. The students sold patriotic bracelets in the cafeteria during lunches alongside other Cameron students. Almost 200 bracelets were sold in a week! Thanks to everyone for participating and helping veterans. This month's thematic unit focused on helping others. In addition to the bracelets for veterans, the class participated in the food drive, coat drive, as well as making and delivering dog biscuits to the animal shelter. A Thanksgiving meal with a TEC class in another town topped off the month with students preparing food and composing statements about what they are thankful for. J
One other note - music classes with Ms. Dupuis have been enjoyed by students. Thanks to Greg Savino and Elena Jacob for their phenomenal percussion demonstrations.

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Art Update

Sixth grade students have finished their Matisse-inspired asymmetrical collages, and they are

wonderful! Many are still on display in the hallway outside the art room. They are now concentrating on finishing paper mache sculptures and painting them. Look for your student to bring all of their two-dimensional artwork home in the next two weeks.

Seventh graders have created imaginative clay sculptures, using pinch-pot and score-and-slip joining techniques, and are practicing their color-mixing skills to prepare for painting their sculptures.

Eighth graders have studied the proportions of the face, and have drawn wonderful portraits. They are now in the process of painting or glazing their ceramic boxes, and will bring them home soon!

I will be sorry to see my trimester one student's move on to another special class, but also look forward to meeting my new students in trimester two.

Cameron Physical Education with Mrs. Dauer and Mr. Kelberman

In our latest Physical Education (PE) classes we have been doing the Pacer Test, a cardiovascular fitness test, which is part of the FITNESSGRAM physical fitness assessment tool. Students are challenged to complete as many laps (approximately the length of the gym) along with the cadence of tones on the FITNESSGRAM CD, thus testing one's ability to run testing cardiovascular fitness. We will report that many students are challenging themselves to run into the healthy zone scores. Please ask your student about the Pacer Test. You may hear very strong opinions about it.

We are holding a mini-unit on basketball as well during this time of year. The mini- basketball unit introduces the foul shot/free throw to 6th and 7th graders. We hope to work on developing skills for doing a good foul shot. The acronym B.E.E.F. is a cue to remind our students while shooting: **B** = balance, stand facing the hoop with your weight on two feet, **E** = elbow, bend your elbow to 90°, **E** = eyes to the hoop, **F** = follow-through to the hoop.

The Elks Shoot Out is on Saturday, January 7th, 2012. We are looking for contestants. Students: If you are a good basketball free-throw shooter/foul shooter – sign up to try out.

In each PE class the students are challenged to participate in the various activities whether it involves individual skills or some team play. We continue to stress being prepared for PE with sneakers and gym clothes. On occasion, we give out “Kelby cash” (points redeemable for little prizes) as a reward for doing good work, showing good sportsmanship, answering trivia questions, and performing well in the activity.

Our students will be participating in FUN RUNs on Wednesday, November 23rd, the ½ day of school before Thanksgiving break. The 7th grade students and the 8th grade students will each participate in their grade FUN RUN. The students are encouraged to run and jog at a pace that they can sustain throughout the whole 30 minute time period. The FUN RUN route is a loop around the front of the school with 5 laps equaling 1 mile. The idea is to *pace oneself*. By starting out at a reasonable pace or speed- a runner can continue to move at this pace and not have to stop because he/she feels so tired that they cannot possibly continue. Walking the route will also be encouraged. We are emphasizing the importance of 30 minutes of daily physical activity. It is our step towards combating the epidemic of inactivity and obesity in the nation.

Aerobic physical activity for people of all ages is very important to overall health and well-being. As we work with your children in our Physical Education classes, we are charged with the challenge of teaching them become healthier individuals who learn lifetime fitness, knowledge, and sport skills. Please encourage activity at home by taking a family walk, hike, bike-ride, or swimming, skating, basketball shooting, etc. Your family's overall focus on good health and exercise will set a positive model for your child. Your family's dedication to getting out for some family exercise gives them the opportunity to be more active.

Remember: Seven days without exercise makes one *weak*. The world is your gym, get outside and enjoy it.

Lost and Found: As a side note: you help us (and your child) by labeling the sweatshirts, etc. with the name or initials on an inside tag/label. When the sweatshirt is left in the gym on the floor or outside, we can generally help get it back to the rightful owner with that **clue of the name or initials**. There is a **Lost and Found Table** outside the gym and is the spot to look for lost items. Students are able to look over the items at lunch or recess. Some lost & found items are briefly put in the main office and then sent to the Lost and Found Table near the gym. After a month of being unclaimed, items are donated to charity.

Intramural Update

Wow! Intramurals have had a great turnout this fall. We have had soccer and Cross-country (XC) running programs after school. Our 50-75 students staying for soccer is a fun time for all. Wow! We have been playing a lot of soccer. Our XC running club has 26-30 runners attending. We run about 2 ½ -3miles per afternoon. Our young runners are having a lot of success running together on routes in the Cameron neighborhood and the Carol Getchell Nature Trail. The nature trail is a wonderful place to run - right behind our school. Have your student take you on a walk there. It is a great hike on a fall or winter day.

Teachers involved with intramurals: Mrs. Dauer, Mrs. Flionis, Mr. Silva, & Mr. Kelberman.

Cameron Cares....

This will be our fourth year collecting redeemable bottles and cans for the veterans of Framingham. Last year we collected and donated \$200.00 to the Veteran's Association of Framingham. It would be nice to make a larger donation this year, and we could use your help. In past years we just counted on students and teachers for their bottles and cans. So this year we are asking for your help to increase the final total. There are several receptacles around the building for students and teachers, and we ask that you encourage your student to use them. If you

can contribute, please bring them in when you visit or send them with your students. The veterans have given a lot, and this is only a small way in which we can show our appreciation.



Welcome to the A+ School Rewards Program!

Register your Stop and Shop Card – Earn Money for Cameron

You need to register every school year!

To Register your Stop and Shop card visit: www.stopandshop.com/aplus and follow the steps below:

- **Designate Your School**
- **Click on Register your Card:**
- **Enter the first 3 letters of your last name:**
- **Enter your Stop & Shop Card number:**
- **Choose the Location: Framingham, MA**
- **Enter our School ID: 05823**

Funding Factory Recycling Program

Cameron Middle School collects all ink cartridges and cell phones for recycling. You may drop these

items off in the box in front of the main office anytime during regular school hours. A small percentage kicks back to the school to help with student learning.



the difference
I can make.

At Cameron we are collecting box tops, which are found on many store bought products. You can help benefit your child's education by donating your box tops to "Box Tops Education". It's easy too, there is a display in the main lobby at the school, just come in and put your box tops in the box on the display. It's that easy.



Take Charge of Education[®] is a school fundraising initiative created by Target in April 1997 to enhance educational opportunities and outcomes for children in communities across America. Community members can easily designate an eligible K-12 school of their choice and have Target donate an amount equal to one percent of their REDcardSM (Target[®] Visa[®] Credit Card, Target Credit CardSM and Target Check CardSM) purchases made at Target and Target.com* Target also donates ½ percent of all purchases made

everywhere else Target Visa Credit Cards are accepted. Depending upon each classroom's individual needs, schools can use the unrestricted funds for anything from classroom supplies to updated technology. Since the program's inception, Target has donated more than \$273 million to K-12 schools.



Cameron is working along with Anton's Cleaners in Natick to collect Coats for Kids. We have been participating in this program for the last couple of years and it has been very successful. Last year we collected 150 coats. We will be collecting coats for adults and children until January 2012. There are two big boxes outside of the main office, one for adults and one for children. We will be keeping track weekly of our progress on a chart above the boxes. Please drop off your old coats and help a person in need.

Order Your 2011-2012 YEARBOOK Now!

- A limited amount will be available, so order early in order to guarantee that you will get a copy.
- The cost is \$20.
- See Ms. Sack in Room 124 for an order form.

December

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1 Breakfast w/Principal – 8:15 Math Meet – 3pm	2	3
4	5 Staff Mtg. – 2:30pm	6	7	8 Sage Word Challenge	9	10
11	12 Team Leader Mtg. – 2:30pm	13	14 New teachers Mtg. – 2:30pm	15 Musical – 7pm	16 Musical – 7pm	17
18	19	20 Honors Breakfast – grade 7/8 – 8:30am	21 Honors Breakfast – grade 6 – 8:30am	22	23 Holiday Recess – No School	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Holiday recess December 23, 2011 –
January 2, 2012 – No School
Students and staff return on Tuesday January 3, 2012