



CAMERON CHRONICLE

2011-2012

From the Principal's Desk

We want to thank all the parents and guardians who attended the Open House in September. It is a wonderful way to meet the staff members and put a face to a name. We are fortunate to have such a committed group of educators and they strive to make learning a rewarding experience and one that students will want to continue for a very long time.

As part of the Cameron Middle School tradition we will be celebrating the Students of the Month with the October breakfast on Monday, October 2nd. Each month we ask teachers to put forth a student from their team who excels in kindness, courtesy, and is an asset to the classroom. These students are then treated to a breakfast with the principal and have the opportunity to read the morning announcements for a month. Their pictures are then hung in the library showcase for all to see. At the PTO meeting they are honored and applauded.

The first PTO meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 4 at 7:00 in the school library. We would love a big turnout. We always have teachers attend and we look forward to having parents and guardians present too. It is such a great opportunity to be involved in the school and hear about all of our programs and know what is happening in the classrooms. Please join us for this and all future meetings. Mrs. Mary Beth Duggan and Mr. Jim Stockless are the co-presidents this year. We thank them for their time and dedication.

Just a reminder that on October 7th students have no school but teachers will have a full day of professional development. We are still

concentrating on literacy for all students. We want students to make a year's growth or more in reading for comprehension. This is a four-day weekend for children since that following Monday, October 10 is Columbus Day.

On October 20, a Thursday night, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. we will hold our annual Sixth grade Activity Night. We will have a DJ playing music in the cafeteria and an open gym. Students should wear comfortable appropriate clothes. They can play basketball, use the ping pong tables, dance with friends and even purchase water and treats. Any parent who wishes to bake cupcakes or cookies or donate items should contact Ms. Greaney or Ms. Walecka who are the co-advisors to Student Council.

On October 27 there is another half day for students and teachers arrange parent conferences on this day. On Saturday, October 28 we have our annual community service event: Halloween Haven. Our staff members and students set up a safe place for elementary students to come with parents and celebrate the holiday. There are games, a crafts room, haunted house, cookie decorating and so much more. This event has grown each year and is a fun afternoon for all!

Dropping and picking up students

Please abide by the rules posted at the end of our driveway which ask that parents do not drive children to the front door to drop them off in the morning from 7:45- 8:15 or use the driveway from 2:15-2:45 for pick up. Please park on Elm Street or Michael Road when driving a student to school.

We want only the buses to use the driveway from 7:45-8:15 and from 2:15-2:45. In addition, cars cannot be on the opposite side of Elm Street. Stay on the side of Elm Street closest to the building. We do not want any accidents and need all parents to cooperate. Thank you.

Students of the Month

Heather Rotatori – Grade 8
Gabiella Teixeira – Grade 8
Erin Saslav – Grade 7
Brian Burns – Grade 7
Megan Jaeger – Grade 6
Samantha D'Ercole – grade 6

Message from the Assistant Principal

All of us here, at Cameron Middle School, would like to recognize and extend a special thank you to Bart Catalano of Friendly's Ice Cream at the Stop and Shop Plaza in Framingham and to Janet O'Connor the Director of Community Relations at Roche Bros. Supermarkets for their generous contribution to the students of our school. Bart greatly helped us by providing an ice cream party for our sixth graders on their first day at school and to Janet whose generous gift from Roche Bros. will be used for our students at Halloween Heaven and the Spaghetti Dinner. Thank you both for your community service.

Team News

Grade 6 – Green Team

Students in Mr. Hepp's Language Arts are settling into sixth grade and are really showing what great writers they are. Thus far, students have handed in a pair of essays, the first of which was an autobiographical essay that gave students a chance to describe their families, interests and any special or unique traits they possess. For the second essay, students were able to choose from a wide variety of topics, both fiction and nonfiction. Also, we have begun our study of figurative language, focusing on simile and metaphor. Students also paid a visit to the Cameron library, where they checked out independent reading books. For the first

independent reading book students will be writing a five-paragraph book report.

The 2011 school year has arrived and sixth grade science has wasted no time getting down to business. The students immediately began work on the scientific method, a technique that is utilized throughout all disciplines of science. Once the students mastered the steps of the scientific method (with help from a wonderful mnemonic), they carried the momentum into our next unit: The Metric System. This universal system of measurement is the basis of all scientific measurement and will be a tremendous help once we begin formal lab assignments. Our first lab will require the ability to measure mass, volume, and distance, and the use of the metric system is essential.

Grade 6 – Yellow Team

In Social Studies on the Yellow Team, the students have been working on Geography basics during the first 2 weeks of school (Latitude/Longitude, Scale, Directions, Interpreting Charts, etc...). They have also been introduced to the "Five Themes of Geography." Mr. Fauth has been very pleased with the effort and teamwork that the students have shown.

Parents, as a reminder, please contact Mr. Fauth if you have any questions about TeacherEase (online grading program) at tfauth@framingham.k12.ma.us.

Everyone is off to a great start in the Yellow Team ELA classes with Mrs. Wynn. Students have been working on essays about themselves since the first week of school. It's been a great way for me to get to know them better. In the upcoming weeks, we will be working on reading strategies, independent reading and summarizing skills, using context clues to figure out meanings of unknown vocabulary, and much more. In October, I will begin the EPALS Program. This is an email program which matches up your child with a Framingham State University student for the year. The two will exchange emails once or twice a week to learn about each other. Sixth graders will work on improving writing skills while corresponding with someone who can tell them all about college

life! Hopefully, it will be a motivating way to get your child to write more. I enjoyed meeting everyone at Open House!

GREEN AND YELLOW TEAM MATHEMATICS

We have begun the year in 6th grade by covering Geometry and Measurements. Students are naming polygons, learning how to measure angles by using protractors, and showing great estimating skills without protractors. They are also learning about circles and finding the perimeter of polygons and the circumference of circles. We wrap-up the unit with a project that allows students to combine their skills learned with creativity to create amazing examples of Geometry in a design.

The next major topic we'll cover is Patterns. The students are working hard and showing that they are grasping the concepts well. It's very exciting to see them discover mathematics!

Grade 7 – Green Team

Mrs. Callanan's Science Class

Welcome back! Mrs. Callanan's 7th grade science class has begun to discuss life's structure and function. We started this unit by using our own prior knowledge to come up with characteristics that makes an organism living. One of the most important characteristics is that living organisms are made up of cells. The idea of cells has launched us into our next exciting section of defining a cell, identifying the components of a cell and familiarizing ourselves with some of the major functions of cells. Over the next several weeks, we will be discussing and dissecting all of these ideas in class. All of our learning will culminate with the Cell Analogy project. In the near future students will receive details and requirements regarding this project. To access homework and other class information, please log on to my moodle page. The page can be accessed from Cameron's homepage under the 'helpful links' and then by selecting moodle. The course is called 'Mrs. Callanan Grade 7 Science'. Students log on using their school user name and password. Users must enroll in the course with a one time enrollment key, which is science rocks (no spaces, all lowercase letters).

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Mr. Kalinowski's Social Studies Class

Welcome, my name is Bill Kalinowski and I am the green team social studies teacher. I can't tell you how excited I am to be teaching social studies in the seventh grade this year! Seventh grade social studies is comprised of a study of ancient Greece, ancient Rome and a continuation of world geography. This year we're starting off the first trimester studying geography. During the first several weeks of class as I got to know your children, we spent time figuring out exactly where we are in the world and I mean exactly! Most of the children had a pretty good sense of map skills in general; but, we thought it might be a good idea to review these skills in preparation for an in-depth study of several of the continents. This week we're beginning to explore South America. Our first stop will be the country of Brazil with which many of our students have more than a passing interest. Brazil is a country with growing significance in the international community. Many experts think that during the next 20 years Brazil will become one of the four dominant economic powers in the world. Let's hope that the United States is still one of them also.

In studying about Brazil, we will not only learn about its economy, history, culture and its abundance of natural resources but we will also spend time comparing that country to other nations. This understanding of the relationship and interdependence among countries will be a critical part of our curriculum. One of the things that has made geography so relevant in recent years is the fact that due to advances in technology our world is getting smaller and smaller. Our children will be interfacing with people from around this world in their adult years; therefore, it is really important that they are able to relate to people from a variety of cultures on a personal level. This year our goal in geography is to not only understand all the facts that make up a country's culture but also understand what it is like to actually grow up somewhere else. Your children all seem to be excited about studying world geography and I will do everything I can you to make it both interesting and relevant. I look forward to meeting all of you and working with to

provide the best education possible for each of your children.

Mr. Linet's Math Class

It has been an excellent start to the year, getting to know our new students.

We are looking forward to an exciting year.

Our class is about to begin an exciting year of *Impact Mathematics*. Some of the topics we will study include negative numbers, exponents, three-dimensional geometry, ratios, probability, and data analysis. Throughout the year, your student will also develop and refine skills in algebra.

We'll begin by looking at algebraic expressions—the combinations of numbers, letters, and mathematical symbols that form the language of algebra. We will learn about variables—letters or symbols that can change or that represent unknown quantities. For example, in the expression $b + 2$, the variable is b . Your students will learn some creative ways to comprehend algebraic thinking, initially through a bag and block model.

Once we're familiar with variables and expressions, we will create flowcharts to match expressions and then use the flowcharts to solve equations, as well as working backwards, known as backtracking.

We will also explore formulas used in everyday life, such as the formula used to convert degrees Celsius to degrees Fahrenheit: $F = 9/5C + 32$

Mrs. Piantedosi's ELA Class

The 7th grade is off to a great start in Language Arts. The students have been working very hard on their writing skills. They have learned and practiced all of the steps in the writing process. They have written personal narratives offering us a glimpse into a special time in their lives. They have been reading short stories and have applied the reading strategies to the stories. These strategies will help the 7th graders become better readers as they will soon be engaging in their first class novel.

Grade 7 – Yellow Team

Mr. Hamm- Life Science

Mr. Hamm's classes will be an exciting place for your student(s) to learn about Life Science. They will be introduced to a variety of topics which cover: Cells, Genetics, Evolution (controversial—don't have to believe it, just understand it), Bacteria, Protista, Fungi, Plants, the major systems of the Human Body, and Ecology. Students will do a variety of activities around these topics. Some include: drawings, creating models, drafting articles, two-column notes, labs, and other great instructional strategies.

Students have been busy discovering prokaryotic (bacteria) and eukaryotic (animal and plant) cells. Students identified the structures and functions of organelles (organs) found in animal and plant cells. They were asked to relate how the cell and school functions in a similar manner. Students will complete a Cell Project that will be due in October.

Mr. Dee – ELA

The 7th grade is off to a great start in Language Arts. The students have been working very hard on their writing skills. They have learned and practiced all of the steps in the writing process. They are writing personal narratives, offering us a glimpse into a special time in their lives. They have been reading short stories and have applied specific reading strategies to the stories. These strategies will help the 7th graders become better readers as they will soon be engaging in their first class novel.

Ms. Rabinowicz and Mr. Giacobozzi – Math

Ms. Rabinowicz and Mr. Giacobozzi are very excited to be working with the seventh grade yellow team students this year. We will be navigating and discovering the math curriculum *Impact Mathematics* together. In addition, we hope your students learn the skills of persistence and hard work to make them better mathematicians and students. We are currently working with algebraic expressions—the combinations of numbers, letters and mathematical symbols that form the language of algebra. We will then move on to three

dimensional figures and tackle the study of surface area and volume. In addition to the textbook, we will be incorporating real life scenarios, visual manipulatives, and projects to make the abstract concepts of math manageable and exciting. All students will be challenged and held to high expectations, but provided the necessary support and guidance to make it a success year for all. I hope the year continues as well as it has started!! Please remember that all homework can be found on-line at www.yourhomework.com! Check it out to stay up to date with all assignments.

Grade 8 – Yellow Team

Mrs. Williamson's science

At the start of the school year, students have been reviewing the scientific method. Students designed their own experiment to test to see how they could improve on designs of paper/straw gliders. In the coming weeks, students will begin their study of motion. Students will be looking at how things move, how we know they are moving, and learn different ways to describe their motion mathematically. This is a very math intensive unit and if students find that they are having trouble understanding the information, please encourage them to speak up during class and ask for extra help.

Ms. Rensko /Ms. Greaney/Ms. Walecka –Grade 8 Math

The 8th Grade Math classes are continuing with the Impact Course 2 materials that were started last year. So far, we have reviewed integer, fraction and decimal operations. Next, the 8th Grade Math classes will begin a study of surface area and volume. During the volume and surface unit, the students will also complete the "Snack Attack" project. They will design the net of a package for a snack product as well as find the volume and surface area.

Ms. Rensko – Algebra 1

The Algebra 1 course will mirror the course being taught at Framingham High School. We started the year with a review of tools needed for algebra including integer operations, writing equations from

word problems, the distributive property and like terms. We are now beginning a look at solving multi-step equations followed by solving inequalities.

Grade 8 – Green Team

Students in Mr. Neveu ELA class are starting the year by navigating through a plethora of stories that deal in some shape or form with ELA's underlying theme of "Man's Inhumanity to Man". Students have begun looking at this theme in Richard Connell's classic short story "The Most Dangerous Game", and will continue to do so throughout the short story unit. The first couple of weeks have been both busy and productive, and Mr. Neveu looks forward to a very educational and enjoyable year!

Students in Mr. Neveu's World History class have spent the last few weeks learning about Ancient China. They have been studying China's geography and how it affected the development of its people as well as the prevailing social structure and spiritual beliefs of a culture that has remained intact for centuries. During the remainder of the trimester, students will learn how the ancient civilizations in Asia and Africa developed overtime and what these developments meant for their political, religious, and socioeconomic development in the Middle Ages. The trimester has had a great start and Mr. Neveu looks forward to continuing this historic journey through time with his students.

Physical Science: Mrs. Vora

The eighth grade physical science students started the school year with discussion about how scientists think and methods they use to test their hypotheses. Students used scientific method to measure the area of our classroom without using any standard measurement tools, and are now learning about the need to have standard measurements. They will be reviewing metric system of measurements, and will learn to measure mass, volume and density of various kinds of matter by using different scientific instruments. All students will shortly receive a safety contract that students as well as

parents/guardians will have to sign, to ensure the clear understanding of safety guidelines in the science class.

World History: Mrs. Vora

Students have been learning about origin and history of Islam. They studied about beliefs within Islam and its relevance with the current issues around the world. Students are currently working on a major term project about five pillars of Islam, which they will present in their class. Students are encouraged to recognize their own strengths and present the project as a model, power point, short skit or a written piece. They will soon learn about crusades and their effect on Europe and the rest of the world.

Mme McCullen, French

In 6th grade French, students have spent a good deal of time practicing the French alphabet and pronunciation rules. They have also studied basic French salutations, and are now able to conduct short conversations based on greetings, goodbyes, and simple courtesies. Students are currently learning new vocabulary associated with the *salle de classe*, or classroom, and will conclude this month with a study of French numbers and French-speaking countries.

7th grade French classes are currently reviewing materials from sixth grade. They have reviewed cardinal numbers 1-1000 as well as ordinal formations. They have also reviewed classroom objects and common classrooms commands/phrases. Students are now beginning a mini-unit designed to review vocabulary associated with *la famille*, or family, and will create their own *album des photos* to reinforce previous vocabulary as well as apply new concepts of adjective agreement and placement. Students will end the month with a brief review of French-speaking countries.

The 8th grade French class is also currently reviewing materials from last year. They have done a marvelous job handling a large volume of information in a short period of time. 8th-graders have reviewed the rules of French adjective

agreement and placement, vocabulary associated with *la date*, salutations and introductions, large numbers, and possessive adjectives. They will also review basic conjugation rules, including how to conjugate -er, -ir, and -re verbs in the present, near future, and past tenses. They will conclude their unit on grammar review with the basic *passé composé*, and will begin a new unit on clothing and related adjectives near the end of October. Students will end the month with a brief review of French-speaking countries.

Spanish

6th, 7th and 8th graders have been very busy in Spanish class! They started the year off by learning the 22 Spanish-speaking countries and where they are located on the World map. They should be practicing daily at home and in the classroom they have played games and completed various activities reinforcing what they've learned. On Wednesday, September 28th, right before the two day holiday, all three grades will be taking the geography test. Only 8th graders need to know the location of all of the countries, their capitals, and what their flags look like. Later this month 6th graders will learn their first Spanish words while 7th and 8th graders review last year's units in order to move on to the new material.

From the Nurses Desk

To all parents/guardians of Cameron students, After your student has an appointment for an examination with his/her medical provider, please provide your school nurse with a copy of your child's most recent physical or medical forms as soon as possible. The nurse's fax # is 508-788-0481.

If you do not have a primary care provider for your child please contact your school nurse who can refer you to a local provider. The nurse's phone # is 508-782-7832.

Thank you.

Mrs. Faletta - TEC Classroom

The TEC (The Education Cooperative) Classroom is our program for students who have multiple disabilities. We welcome 6th grader Bella Ko to the group this year. She joins 7th grader Vitor Lemos and 8th grader Elias El-Khoury. TEC students participate in many activities throughout the school and interact on a daily basis with other middle school students. If you are interested in getting to know the students in this classroom, please see Mrs. Faletta in room 103.

Some highlights from the beginning of school include curriculum about school rules, our new Citizenship lessons, Elias and Bella writing and reading poems for the assemblies about September 11th, a field trip to Elm Bank, and indoor swimming. We have also started homeroom each day. Many students signed up to enter the lottery to attend homeroom in the TEC classroom. The winners for the first trimester who attend homeroom in room 103 each day are: Juliana Torres(6), Nancy Chammas(6), Eli Bonder(7), Matty Chaves(7), Sara Dilbarian(8), and Rachael Rogerson(8).

Music

6TH GRADE.....All the 6th graders are doing very well this trimester. We are all preparing for our "Mix" concert in the spring. By the end of the year the students will know how to read music and be a part of a music team. They are expected to come in the room, grab a folder and get into their seats, ready to sing. More news to come about tee shirts for the concert.

7TH GRADE..... For the first trimester, the 7th grade music program is devoted to a piano lab. Students will learn many aspects of music: rhythms, beats, etc. In addition, they will be able to play many songs on the piano. They are required to grab a folder and bring a pen or pencil to class.

8TH GRADE.....For the first trimester, the 8th grade music students are listening to different genres of music and writing about them in their journals. We will also study the composers of the

month. They are expected to come to class prepared with a pencil/pen, sit in their seats and be attentive at all times.

Cameron Physical Education with Mrs. Dauer and Mr. Kelberman

The Cameron Physical Education (PE) Program is up and running for the 2011-12 school year. Our first unit is soccer. We get right into soccer activities and games. We stress that students come ready to PE with sneakers, t-shirt, and shorts/sweatpants for every PE class. Students can wear their gym clothes to school/class or tote them in a small gym bag and change quickly for class.

We will try to be outside for much of the Fall – weather permitting. We play mini games to engage more students in actual play. In some classes, we have seen a high level of soccer skills as well as great sportsmanship. Sportsmanship takes effort and shows itself when one tries to be nice to the other team, help up a fallen opponent, and honestly admit making a foul or violation.

We introduced "Zoo Ball" – a game that combines soccer skills with strategies of Ultimate Frisbee and basketball. The non-stop pace of the game is loved by our students.

We are instructing (and doing) the how's and why's of warm-up exercises- stretching, push-ups, and curl-ups. Ask your student to demonstrate push-ups – either bent knee or straight body- for you at home. Try to work together to do some daily exercise as a family.

Bravo to those students who are demonstrating excellent effort in Physical Education! The success of participation is based on correct preparation and effort. Be sure to have your student ready with active wear for every PE class. They lose credit if they are not dressed correctly for activity. Details on clothing are listed on yourhomework.com under Mrs. Dauer's Physical Education classes. The clothing requirements are for all PE students. Please come prepared to run and work-out.

Remember: Seven days *without* exercise makes one *week*. Keep exercising! The world is your gym.

Cameron Intramurals = After School Sports

The Cameron after school sports program will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:55 -4:15 starting on Tuesday, October 4th, 2011. **Tuesdays:** cross-country running (XC) and soccer. **Thursdays:** soccer

Intramural permission slips are available on-line and on Mrs. Dauer's office door.

The program is free to all Cameron students. Just fill out the Intramural permission slip and hand it in to Mrs. Dauer and/or Mr. Kelberman in the PE Dept. or the main office. Remember that you need your gym clothes and sneakers to attend intramurals. The plan is for students to check in with academic teachers and do homework from 2:25-2:55 and then come to intramurals in the gym. We look forward to having a great fall season of sports. Questions? Ask Mrs. Dauer

kdauer@framingham.k12.ma.us. tel# 508-879-2290 or Mr. K akelberman@framingham.k12.ma.us .

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.



Please take a look at the attached list of fund raising activities that the school does.

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 at the machine office anytime during regular school hours. A small percentage kicks back to the school to help with student learning.



the difference
1 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.

October

<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 School Council - 5pm PTO – 7pm	5	6	7 No School – Professional Development	8
9	10 No School- Columbus Day	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 Mid-Term ends	18	19	20 6 th grade Activity Night 6-8pm	21	22
23	24 Mid-Terms go home	25	26	27 11:25 AM dismissal - Parent Conferences	28	29 Halloween Haven- 5-6:30PM
30	31	November 1 School Council – 5pm PTO – 7pm				