



CAMERON CHRONICLE

2011-2012

From the Principal's Desk

On February 2nd we will be having a half day for students. Dismissal is at 11:25 and no lunch is served at school. Teachers will be participating in professional development in the afternoon. We have not had a half day for awhile and this is the only one in February. Most of the work will be aligning the curriculum with the new common core standards.

The 7th and 8th grade students will be treated to an activity night and dance on February 9 from 6:30-8:30. All students will need a permission slip to attend. We charge to get in and some of the proceeds go to the DJ who supplies music in the cafeteria. In the gymnasium we have basketballs, wave-boards, table tennis and much more! We also sell water and goodies out in the foyer. More information will be forthcoming.

On the last day before vacation, February 17, we are fortunate to have Yoko Kawishima Watkins as our visiting author come to Cameron Middle School. All students in grade seven have or will have completed her autobiography, *So Far from the Bamboo Grove*. She brings photographs and answers questions. In addition, she signs any book a child wishes to purchase. She is a lovely woman who is always willing to share moments in her life and teach students about respect and setting goals.

We have not had many parents recently attend our PTO meetings. This month we will be meeting on February 7th at 7:00 p.m. in the library. We would love to have you join us and hear about the Cameron curriculum and the family days we have

planned. The spaghetti dinner in January and book fair were huge events and attended by many people. We discussed these events and more at each of our meetings. This month we will talk about the end of the year activities.

The week of February 20-24 is February vacation. We return to school on February 27.

Students of the Month

Megan Flores– Grade 8
Shania Bigler– Grade 8
Albert Arena– Grade 7
Julia Bertelli– Grade 7
Gabriele De Vargas– Grade 6
Isabella De Brito– grade 6

Team News

Grade 6 – Green Team

Students in Mr. Hepp's language arts class continue to work on reading and writing skills. Roughly once a week students practice answering an open-response style question. After a good deal of practice, students are becoming very adept at finding evidence within a reading selection to support their answers. We also continue to focus on nightly reading logs, which students are required to turn in at the end of every week. The most recent book projects completed by students are summary cubes that include information about the book's exposition, rising action, conflict, and climax as well as a recommendation and an illustration of the student's favorite scene. Look for the summary cubes on display in the library soon!

Grade 6 – Yellow Team

In Mrs. Wynn's ELA classes, we have been learning about figurative language techniques such as simile, metaphor, alliteration, personification, hyperbole, and onomatopoeia! Ask your child about these terms! Students are in the process of writing personification poems. Personification is when a writer takes an inanimate object and gives it human qualities. Below is an exceptional example written recently by Anoushka Nadkarni.

The Wind

The wind dances
Biting at my face
Brushing back my hair
It dances with the trees
They sway to its beat
The wind sings
It swirls up the leaves who are
A sweet harmony for the song
A changing whoosh
From time to time
Tells me the wind is laughing
The wind speaks
It whispers in my ear
Tells me secrets
Never told before
The wind is independent
Doing whatever it likes
Going where it feels
It has its own spirit
Spirit and freedom
The wind is free

By Anoushka Nadkarni

Mr. Fauth – social studies

Recently, the 6th Grade Yellow Team students completed the unit on Ancient Egypt. Students truly enjoyed not only learning about the Egyptian civilization, but especially gravitated towards pyramids and mummies! Students had the opportunity to make blue-prints for their own pyramids and canopic jars.

After Egypt, the students learned about Ancient Mesopotamia. During this unit, we also learned about Archaeology. Students had the opportunity to

"become an Archaeologist" by smashing clay pots in class and putting them back together!

However, just before the holiday break, the students had the opportunity to participate in a review game that has become a "cult classic" called "Who Wants to be a History Buff?" Students worked together in teams to answer review questions from everything that we learned about this year. The winning team got the right to hold the championship belt (see pics).



Also, don't forget about our Flat Stanley projects! We completed the Flat Stanley project just before Thanksgiving and the students truly enjoyed being a part of this global project. Flat Stanley's are due to arrive back to Cameron in May. (See pics)



Mathematics for 6th Gr. Green and Yellow

Recently students have been extending their knowledge of patterns to look at patterns in factors, multiples, fractions, and decimals. They have applied this knowledge to explore divisibility rules, find prime factorization, solve problems using factors and multiples, and convert fractions to decimals and percent's. A few of the games they have played to reinforce these concepts are the

factor game, greatest common factor game, exponent dice, and the product game.

Grade 7 – Green Team

Currently, students are developing a general understanding about the human body. Specifically, an understanding that the human body has organs, each of which has a specific function of its own, and that these organs together create systems that interact with each other to maintain life.

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Mr. Linet’s Math Class

In Mr. Linet and Mr. G’s math class students are beginning the study of linear relationships---where a change in one variable results in a fixed change in another variable. In class we will describe situations, make tables of data about the situations, graph the data, and write linear equations that describe the relationships.

We will also learn to predict which equations have graphs that are straight lines by looking at tables or algebraic rules. Then from a graph or table, we will be able to determine the slope and y-intercept. One way you can assist is to discuss different ways linear relationships appear in the world such as calculating payments for jobs using different hourly rates.

Mr. Kalinowski – social studies

It seems as if the second trimester has just flown by. Just weeks ago we began Australia and New Zealand in our geography classes. We are completing the trimester learning more about the peoples of Europe and the complex historic relationship that Europe has with our country. Almost all of our students can find a piece of their heritage rooted somewhere in Europe. Before leaving geography we will spend several more weeks in that part of the world. 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. We will examine these culture through the prism of literature, poetry, theater and conquest. We will learn how these civilizations have impacted the foundations of modern Europe. As we have noted in the past 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.

Mrs. Piantedosi’s ELA Class

Students in Mrs. Piantedosi’s class continue to read The Miracle Worker. The students continue to be amazed at how brave and determined Anne Sullivan was with Helen Keller and all she was able to accomplish. The story has made many students look at their own lives and not take anything for granted.

Students also have been working very hard using their reading and writing strategies for the upcoming MCAS test. Students have been working on practice passages answering multiple choice and open response questions. They are prepared for the upcoming test and should be confident when the time arrives.

Grade 7 – Yellow Team

Mr. Hamm- Life Science

Students are working hard to grasp various concepts within our Genetics Unit. They find this unit to be extremely interesting due to the personal connections they can make to better understand the information presented daily. Students took part in some activities which took them through some vocabulary words, like “probability”, “Punnett square”s, “homozygous”, “heterozygous”, “dominant”, and “recessive” to share some. Ask your student about these words and see what they can teach you.

Mr. Dee – ELA

Mr. Dee's Language Arts classes have started reading *So Far From the Bamboo Grove*, a stirring story of survival during World War II. We spent time gathering background information about World War II and the novel's author, Yoko Kawashima Watkins. Just before February vacation, we are privileged to have the author visit Cameron. As we read the novel, students are preparing questions for Yoko. This is one of the most exciting times of the year for the ELA department. We also continue to prepare for the MCAS exam, which is coming up in March.

Ms. Rabinowicz and Mr. Giacobozzi – Math

The seventh grade yellow team students are studying linear relationships. Students will be combining their knowledge of tables, graphs and equations to fully understand this unit. The content presents a great opportunity to incorporate technology into the classroom and discuss real life scenarios (this includes a final project). Students will continue to complete Blast from the Past; any score above an 80% enters them into the raffle for the Boston University field trip. Lastly, students recently took the winter MAPs test which will allow us see how much students have grown since the beginning of the school year.

Mr. Davis – Social Studies

In Social Studies we are currently studying Europe. We will be wrapping up our study of this part of the world in a couple of weeks. Our next area of study will be Ancient Greece. As the foundation of Western Civilization, Ancient Greeks studied philosophy, government, and architecture. The Ancient Greeks also excelled in science and math. As always if you have any travel experience in this or any part of the world and would like to share some of your experiences please contact me.

Grade 8 – Yellow Team

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

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

Mrs. Williamson – Science

On the Yellow Team, 8th grade science students are finishing up their study of physics with the recent test on **heat** and will be starting the next phase of physical science with the study of chemistry. Students will be studying the physical properties of matter and will be doing several lab activities around the concept of density. Students should expect to be doing at least two major lab reports this month.

Ms. Rensko – Algebra 1

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

Grade 8 – Green Team

Students in Mr. Neveu's ELA classes have been busy working in groups on a differentiated novel project. This project has been developed by the Sage department and is designed to foster discourse between students of similar reading and learning styles. When the students are not working in their novel groups, they are busy preparing for the upcoming ELA MCAS and navigating the world of poetry through the lens of great poets and writers like Nikki Giovanni, Robert Frost, and Sandra Cisneros.

Mr. Neveu's World History students have spent the last few weeks comparing and contrasting the development and viability of China's vast array of dynasties through the centuries. Currently his students are discussing the Mongolian invasion of China and what it meant to China's infrastructure and cultural identity. In few weeks, the students will switch continents and move over to Africa where they will not only learn about Africa's diverse geography and what it meant to the development of its people, but also about their very successful and varied cultural and religious background.

Physical Science: Mrs. Vora

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

World History: Mrs. Vora

In our social studies class, students have been learning about history of various religions around the world. We finished discussing about Islam and the crusades. The term project was about "Five pillars of Islam" and students made beautiful posters, models, and power points that reflected their understanding of the topic. They presented their work in the class. Students are now learning about ancient civilization of India. Students are encouraged to read non-fiction picture books that will help them visualize historical events.

Guidance Department

Our citizenship class just finished 4 weeks of emotion management through the Second Step Program. In the next few weeks we will revisit the topic of bullying as we focus on sexual harassment. According to the Second Step Curriculum, sexual

harassment between peers happens when a student is bothered with words, actions, pictures or comments that leaves the student feeling unsafe or uncomfortable in school. We will be spending 4 sessions defining and understanding sexual harassment and looking at the differences between flirting and harassing behaviors. Students will learn how to use assertive communication as they practice scenarios using clear and respectful language.

Srta. Blake/Srta. Jiménez español 6 ☺

Sixth graders have been working on creating calendars for their calendar unit. Students have learned the days of the week, through a song, and have also learned the months of the year and all of the other supplementary vocabulary; yesterday, tomorrow, tonight, today, etc. As students create their calendars in groups they are learning about the differences and similarities of the Spanish and American calendar and also learning about the different holidays.

Srta. Blake/Srta. Jiménez español 7 ☺

Seventh graders have begun their unit of "En el café." In the restaurant unit students learn all food vocabulary which includes: fruits, vegetables, seafood, and packaging/containers. They also learn about restaurant etiquette and manners, how to ask for things, place an order, and eat politely. Students are also becoming more familiar with -ER, -AR, and -IR verbs and how to conjugate them. They are being introduced to stem-changing verbs as well.

Srta. Blake/Srta. Jiménez español 8 ☺

Eighth graders have started to work on 'pretérito' (past tense). Students are already able to write in the present and present progressive tenses but are beginning to learn the rules of writing in past tense with the 'ed' ending. Conjugating verbs in this tense can be difficult so students have created conjugation charts and have been given a cheat sheet with all of the irregular verbs conjugations to keep handy. Upon returning from vacation we saw it appropriate to have students complete a writing assignment about activities they did during their

vacation since it would all be in past tense. In addition to learning tenses, students have started to learn new vocabulary which is from the Ski/Beach unit.

Mrs. Faletra - TEC Classroom

January in the TEC Classroom included a unit on Biographies. The students studied Martin Luther King and John F. Kennedy. A trip to the John F. Kennedy Museum in Boston was a great learning experience for all. During "Boys' group" with six eighth grade boys, Elias and Vitor have been conducting interviews of teachers around school learning how to gather information about a person. In addition, each TEC student will be studying and presenting a chosen biography from the library in the coming weeks. Science has included a unit on Snow this month. Daily homeroom with Cameron peers and monthly swimming continue to be favorite activities of the students in the TEC classroom. If you are interested in making new friends in room 103, please stop by to see Mrs. Faletra anytime.

Mrs Fleming, Art

It has been a pleasure to meet my Trimester II students, who have been working hard at design projects (6th grade), drawing skills (7th grade), and proportions of the face (8th grade). Sixth graders are about to complete a creative collage project and will then be on to paper mache sculpture. Seventh grade students, who have been working very hard on a pastel still life, will soon begin a creative clay project. Eighth graders have moved on to an expressive, themed collage, and will also be creating with clay before too long. Please urge your child to consider wearing older clothes on art days!

I am planning to participate in the Square 1 fundraiser this semester, in which students create a work of art which parents can have printed on mugs, shirts, magnets, stickers, etc. I am looking for one parent volunteer to be a contact person for parents (this is required by the company), and one or two parents to help hand out orders in May or

June. If you are able to help out, please contact me ASAP by email: rflaming@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.

February

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1	2 Early Release – 11:25am	3	4
5	6	7 School Council – 5pm PTO – 7pm	8	9 7 th & 8 th Activity night – 6:30- 8:30pm	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
No School – School Vacation Week						
26	27	28	29			

March 8, 6:00-7:15pm, at Framingham High School gym is the annual student vs. staff basketball game!

Framingham Middle Schools Basketball Team Schedule January/February 2012

1/24 Tuesday CAMERON Practice Fuller @ Walsh 1 st game: Boys 2:30-3:15 2 nd game: Girls 3:30-4:15	1/25 Wednesday Walsh @ Cameron 1 st game: Boys 2:30-3:15 2 nd game: Girls 3:30-4:15	1/26 Thursday Cameron @ Fuller 1 st game: Boys 2:30-3:15 2 nd game: Girls 3:30-4:15
1/31 Tuesday Fuller @ Cameron 1 st game: Girls 2:30-3:15 2 nd game: Boys 3:30-4:15	2/1 Wednesday CAMERON Practice Walsh @ Fuller 1 st game: Girls 2:30-3:15 2 nd game: Boys 3:30-4:15	2/2 Thursday Early Release Day (No games)
2/7 Tuesday Cameron @ Walsh 1 st game: Girls 2:30-3:15 2 nd game: Boys 3:30-4:15	2/8 Wednesday Play-Offs 1 st Place (BYE) 2 nd Vs. 3 rd Place Boys' Semi-finals game Girls' Semi-finals game School (TBD)	2/9 Thursday Championship Games 1 st Place vs. Winner of 2 nd Vs. 3 rd Place Boys' Final game Girls' Final game School (TBD)

1st Game: 2:30PM-3:15PM

2nd Game: 3:30PM – 4:15PM

***We will only go into the week of the 14th if we have a snow day.**

Boys basketball roster - John Lagoutaris, Julian Pennant, Zach MacGregor, Bruno Pereira(7th), Andre Adkins, Colton Chassie, Yardley Moyette, John Rodrigues ,Damari Yarrell ,Noel Estevez, Lucas Nazareth, Jon White, Michael Grinnell, Dylan DeSimone, Eddie Pedroza, Yago De Oliveira ,Ben Rouser

Girls basketball roster – Shannon Aurelio, Bruna Barbalho, Evellyn Camillo, Diane Chapin, Megan Flores, Emily Frietas, Sydney Hajduk, Elexus Johnson, Delaney Lawson, Rebecca Martino, Veronica Monterozza, Colleen Myers, Krysta Nichols, Heather Rotatori, Caitlyn Snider, Brianna St. Pierre