



CAMERON CHRONICLE

2011-2012

From the Principal's Desk

Hard to believe it is 2012! The years definitely go by faster all the time. I hope everyone had a lovely holiday season and the new year brings only good health and lots of great times. I also would not complain if the snow stayed away this year and it became a very mild winter. Since I don't skate or ski, I realize I might be in the minority.

January brings lots of great events and opportunities too. We will begin a new session of C-Camp along with Intramurals and clubs commencing January 17 and this will go until April 5. Intramurals are only on Tuesdays and Thursdays but C-Camp is four days a week.

Our popular Spaghetti Dinner evening is planned for January 19 from 5:30-6:45. We love having whole families come and eat with us. That same evening we will be holding a book fair so you can come and eat as well as browse the shelves for new books. The PTO and staff, along with members of Student Council, sponsor this event. We have children singing and raffles. It is really a lot of fun and the food is excellent. Please be sure to .. visit Cameron that night and have dinner with us!

Also in January on the 12th, we have our special Winter Concert where the bands and orchestras of all three grades perform in the auditorium. This is a free night of entertainment and it begins at 7:00 p.m. Mrs. Dupuis is the music teacher and the

students have worked long and hard preparing for this evening. Everyone is invited!

We will be doing the second round of MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) testing in both reading and mathematics. We have also been conferencing with students and setting goals for the next few weeks. We would like to see students putting forth their best effort and doing more reading and writing at home. All students are expected to read a minimum of 20 minutes each night. It would be great if the whole family sat down to read together. Students have been choosing books from the library and then are asked to bring them home and read a little each evening. Reading gets better, research shows, the more one reads. We hope you will encourage your son and/or daughter to read for pure enjoyment.

Each month the PTO meets on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. for one hour in our library. We would love to have more parents join us. Often we have guest speakers and teachers from Cameron come and talk about what is happening in the classrooms. This meeting is our opportunity to keep you informed and let you know about the curriculum as well as evening activities we have planned for the whole family! Please join us on Tuesday night, January 10, at 7:00.

Students of the Month

Alex Paiva Jr. – Grade 8
Amy Bernard – Grade 8
Kirstie Haines – Grade 7
Michelle Quigley – Grade 7
Elias Tsiantoulas – Grade 6
David Arena – grade 6

Team News

Grade 6 – Green Team

Students in Mr. Hepp's class continue to work on their independent reading. In addition to a weekly reading log, students complete roughly a project a month for an independent reading book. The next project will be completed in early January, so students must make sure to read over the holiday break. Recently the 6th graders paid a visit to the Museum of Science to visit the special exhibit, A Day in Pompeii. Back in class, students chose one of two writing assignments: either a poem from the perspective of an eyewitness to Mt. Vesuvius's eruption, or a newspaper article from the perspective of a reporter visiting the exhibit at the museum. Students produced some detailed and powerful writing pieces. Every student is also continuing to work on answering open-response questions, as well as work on the skill of summarizing what they read.

Science – Green Team

The sixth grade Green Team has just completed the testing of their "Earthquake-proof structures." Students worked diligently over the course of the week, erecting structures that were subjected to conditions similar to those of an actual earthquake. The magnitude and structural integrity varied from building to building, but the fun was consistent across the board. The information gathered from the testing will be well used on the upcoming earthquake exam.

Room 116 appeared to experience an earthquake of its own over the course of the project, but thanks to

the diligence and generosity of both the custodial staff and student body we were able to keep things well under control.

Our next unit will focus on Volcanoes; a unit that will be equally fun, informative, and (unfortunately) messy! The end of this unit will culminate in a "Volcano Summit" which is always a big hit with students and parents alike.

Grade 6 – Yellow Team

In Mrs. Wynn's class, students finished reading the novel *Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie* by Jordan Sonnenblick. Students recently wrote summaries of the book to their FSU Epals, telling them all about the story. Here is an example written by **Alexandra Cohen**.

Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie. It is about an eighth grader named Steven who thinks his little brother, Jeffrey, is incredibly annoying. Later he regrets these feelings because Jeffrey is diagnosed with cancer. Steven does everything he can to cope with his brother's illness. He hangs with his best friend, Annette, plays his drums, and reluctantly goes to the school guidance counselor. Steven isn't just worried about Jeffrey, though. He's falling behind in his school work, and he also plays in the high school jazz band. Jeffrey isn't getting better and is still going to the hospital for treatment. Steven does the best he can to help Jeffrey, but is doing nothing to help himself. Steven also has a crush on the hottest girl in eighth grade, Renee Albert. But after kicking her out of his house, Steven will never be with the girl he loves, or will he? At the end of the book Steven ends up with his real crush, Annette, and Jeffrey is finally cured.

Grade 7 – Green Team

Mrs. Callanan's Science Class

Currently, students are developing a general understanding about the human body. Specifically, 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. Groups of students put together PowerPoint presentations on different systems and

presented them to the class. In addition, more detailed investigations have occurred on the respiratory, digestive and circulatory systems.

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Mr. Linet's Math Class

In Mr. Linet and Mr. Giacobozzi's Math Classes finished working with Exponents and Scientific Notation. Our next unit of study is Working With Signed Numbers. Students will learn various methods of operations with positive and negative whole numbers.

After students have mastered the use of signed numbers, four quadrant Cartesian Plane graphs will be introduced. Students will be plotting points and finding the difference between two points on a four quadrant coordinate grid.

You may want to discuss common occurrences of negative numbers with your student. These may include sea level, temperature, over-drawn bank accounts, and the national debt.

Mrs. Piantedosi's ELA Class

Mrs. Piantedosi's students continue to work hard in their language arts class. This month they will begin to read the novel *The Miracle Worker*. The novel focuses on the life of Helen Keller and the challenges she had to overcome in life. Her story is one that will motivate and encourage students and serves as a great reminder that anything is possible if they put their mind to it. Along with reading the novel, students continue to work on their grammar, vocabulary, and writing skills.

Grade 7 – Yellow Team

Mr. Hamm- Life Science

In the December edition of the Cameron Chronicle, I mentioned students would go from Cells to the Human Body. At the last minute I changed our plans. Sorry! With students in mind, and the ability to make clear connections to what they just learned, I introduced student to Genetics. I felt this was a better transition for many reasons.

Within the Genetics unit students will learn about Mendelian Inheritance (how genes (traits) are passed from generation to generation) through a variety of activities. Students also started a Genetic Disorder Project in class and were able to access the Cameron Library and computers for 3 days. Students were asked to gather interesting and important information and assemble a presentation to share with the class upon completion. Students were asked to present their disorders to their peers to raise their awareness and appreciation for the differences that exist among people. Students created amazing projects!

Mr. Dee – ELA

Mr. Dee's Language Arts class finished reading Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* and looked at what life was like in Victorian-era England. Students were then asked to compare and contrast the themes from this classic play to *The Miracle Worker*. We continue to focus on different grammatical areas that continue to prove troublesome in students' writing. In January, we will begin preparing to read *So Far from the Bamboo Grove*, a novel that takes place during World War II. Students will get to meet the author, Yoko Kawashima Watkins, after we finish reading the novel.

Ms. Rabinowicz and Mr. Giacobozzi – Math

The seventh grade yellow team students are starting their study of integers and the coordinate graph system. All students have reflected on their trimester 1 grade and set individual goals for trimester 2. Students will check in once a month to gauge their progress towards their goals. Students will continue to work with the *Impact Series Math Textbook* and practice basic math skills with weekly Blast from the Pasts. Our LCD projector has allowed us to create a more technologically advanced classroom and hands on learning experience.

Mr. Davis – Social Studies

In social studies we are currently studying South East Asia. We will be wrapping up our study of this

part of the world in another few days. Our next area of study will be Europe. Our travels will take us through the major countries on the continent including Great Britain, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, and Greece. Our look at modern day Greece will lead into the second half of the year when we will study Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome. 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

Mr. Silva- ELA

So far in the past few weeks we have made heavy strides in the *House on Mango Street*. For the most part, the kids seem to be enjoying the unit and there has been a heavy increase in writing across the board, specifically for EDBD. Homework has increased additionally, as has the expected amount of time spent reading outside of school. Reading logs and BFP's remain a week to week expectation. We will be moving through Mango Street for a while longer and eventually plan to begin our poetry unit!

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

The grade 8 math classes recently wrapped up a unit on solving equations. During the first couple of weeks of the month, the students will use their equation solving skills to solve inequalities. Later in the month, we will be studying linear relationships and equations. We will focus on showing linear relationships in tables, graphs and equation form. After these units, the students should be well prepared to tackle algebra 1 in ninth grade.

Ms. Rensko – Algebra 1

During this month, the algebra 1 students will be finishing a unit introducing functions. Next, they will study linear equations, including the important concept of slope. Near the end of January, the algebra students will also take a midyear exam on topics in chapters 1 through 5.

Grade 8 – Green Team

Now that the winter holidays are upon us, Mr. Neveu's ELA classes are focused on finishing up a two-week long writing clinic on persuasive writing. The students have all chosen a topic, researched it, formulated their opinions, and are using proper MLA format to argue their perspective. In an effort to continue actively reading in their spare time, the students are working on their monthly Independent Reading Projects. Mr. Neveu encourages his students to continue reading over the break and hopes that everyone has a very warm and happy Winter Break!

Mr. Neveu's World History class has hit the ground running and is currently traversing the world of Ancient China. Starting with China's vast geographic layout, the students have been learning how a country's landscape can not only dictate where people live, but how a group of people develops socially, economically, politically, and religiously. Upon their return from a well-deserved break, the students will transition from Ancient to Medieval China, and slowly make their way from the Asian to the African continent. Mr. Neveu hopes everyone has a happy and healthy new year and looks forward to seeing everyone soon!

Physical Science: Mrs. Vora

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

World History: Mrs. Vora and Ms. Rensko

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. They are currently working on a major term project about five pillars of Islam.

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.

Health Education

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

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

8th grade – Currently the students are involved in their violence prevention unit. Some of the topics covered include sexual harassment, reasons for teen violence, anger management, stress reduction, prejudice, revenge and safe schools. An assignment that they will soon be working on is to write an essay about a situation when someone became angry and describe how they could have reacted differently to prevent a violent outcome.

From the Guidance Dept.

For the next few weeks, our Citizenship lessons will focus on **Emotion Management** and we will be using lessons from the Stepping Up/Second Step curriculum. When emotions are intense, it is hard

for anyone, especially young adolescents, to think straight and make good choices.

Your student will learn how strong emotions affect our brains and bodies and how the thinking part of our brain, the cortex, can help us to stay in control. Students will also learn the **Steps for Staying in Control** of strong emotions.

The **Steps for Staying in Control**, from the Second Step Curriculum are:

Notice. Recognize your physical and mental signs.

Pause. Use your signal.

Think Twice. Use your brain.

Calm Down if Necessary.

Reflect.

Students will also learn strategies for calming down, such as exercising, using relaxation techniques, thinking about something else, counting to 10, using centered breathing and positive self-talk.

Staying in control helps students get along with others and focus on their schoolwork. It also helps them to make positive choices. This will help them be more successful in school. Thank you for your support in creating a successful learning environment for your student.

Mrs. Faletra - TEC Classroom

December was a busy month in the TEC classroom. The students attended a semi-formal holiday dance and enjoyed socializing and dancing. They also went to the Enchanted Village. Students participated in holiday activities making gifts for special friends and family and felt the spirit of giving. Students continue to work on individual classwork and participate in inclusion activities with peers. A tremendous "Boys Group" including Elias and Vitor from the TEC Class along with 5 eighth grade boys (and Ms. Eisenberg) has been a highlight for us.

At the beginning of the trimester, there was a sign up and lottery for attending homeroom in room 103. The following students won the lottery for this trimester and have been coming in each morning with the TEC students: eighth graders Jon White

and CJ Tufford, seventh graders Jackie Sousa and Laura Baptista, and sixth graders Jorge Bernal and Ellie McGrann.



Cameron Band/Orchestra Winter

Concert Information



Wed., January 11 (Day 4) - BAND/ORCHESTRA REHEARSALS on stage:

- Grade 6 Band 8:17-9:55
- Grade 7&8 Band 9:55-11:37
- Grade 6-8 Orchestra 1:00-2:25

➤ **Thurs., January 12 (Day 5) – BAND/ORCHESTRA CONCERT DAY ***

- Grade 6-8 Orchestra Rehearsal with Walsh 8:17-9:50
- All Band & Orchestra students report to the auditorium at 9:50
- ASSEMBLY FOR ALL GRADE 6 STUDENTS

(parents are welcome to attend – please sign in @ the office and sit in the balcony)
- WINTER CONCERT 7:00PM – (Grade 6 Band & Orchestra report @ 6:30pm – others at 6:45pm)

- BAKE SALE – please consider baking or bringing bottled water for our bake sale.

No food in the auditorium!

*Concert Dress:

Boys= white button down dress shirt, black dress pants, dark shoes and bow tie (provided)

Girls= white top, black skirt (longer is better), dress shoes

Jazz Band= white button down shirt, black dress pants, dark shoes, arm bands and bow tie

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 just 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
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”. 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.

January

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1	2 No School	3 Students and staff return	4	5 Breakfast with the Principal	6	7
8	9 Staff Mtg. – 2:30pm	10 School Council – 5pm PTO – 7pm	11	12 Winter Concert – 7pm	13	14
15	16	17 C-Camp, Intramurals and late busses begin.	18 Scholastic Book Fair – all day	19 Spaghetti Dinner – 5:30-6:45 Book Fair	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Team Leader Mtg. -. 2:30pm	31				