

6th Grade Update

David E. Owens Middle School

WINTER 2010



A WORD FROM THE 6th GRADE

Hats off to the 2009-2010 sixth grade class for successfully transitioning from the elementary schools to David E. Owens Middle School! From academics, to social gatherings, to community projects, students are doing a fine job in adjusting to their new school environment.

The teachers have compiled an overview that highlights exciting endeavors students are involved in across the curriculum. We are proud to see these middle school students making good progress over the course of the past five months, and we look forward to offering them future challenging learning opportunities as they complete 6th grade. Here are some subject area snapshots showcasing what they are doing in their classes.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- The 6th Grade attended an IMAX double feature at the Palisades Mall.
- The 6th grade had a presentation on nuclear biology in December by a real scientist.
- A 6th grade class trip will be planned for the Spring.

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FOR YOUR CHILD'S HOMEWORK

Language Arts: Dr. Gerrish & Mrs. Orlando

The sixth grade Language Arts classes have participated in many interesting learning experiences this year. They have been involved in various academic activities emphasizing the learning styles of visual, auditory, and kinesthetic domains of processing information. Through guided instruction, students have been engaged in readings from the textbook as well as working on grammar concepts such as sentence structure, nouns, and verbs. They have also completed class novels such as *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen and *Freak the Mighty* written by Rodman Philbrick. Students shared creative projects related to these novels.

Reading different literary genres and continuing to refine students' writing skills was and is a primary

focus. In addition, with parental permission, some students submitted original poems, short essays, and drawings to the "Celebrate Tradition Contest" sponsored by *The Record*. Sixth graders also participated in the David E. Owens annual school wide spelling bee.

In the next two marking periods, students will continue to prepare for the NJASK tests. During the third marking period, Mrs. Daley will be teaching Enrichment to sixth grade Language Arts classes. Upcoming activities in the classrooms will encompass studying selections from the literature textbook, as well as reading and critiquing S. E. Hinton's classic young adult novel, *The Outsiders*, and Katherine Paterson's *Bridge to Terabithia*. Students

will also partake in presenting reports and other relevant projects to their classmates.

Thank you,

Dr. Gerrish & Mrs. Orlando



6th Grade Science: Mrs. Lees



The sixth grade students have been very active in Science this year. We began with laboratory safety procedures and tools. We also worked on independent scientific investigations, scientific method, along with metric system and conversion. The students created time capsules containing height, broad-jump distance, a photograph taken in class and a personal questionnaire, along with their most cherished items.

We eagerly entered the area of Physics with explorations

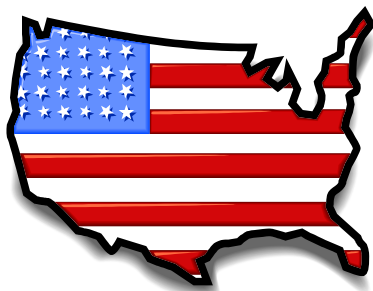
into its branches of Chemistry and Physical Science. Students ventured into elements, compounds, and mixtures as well as the structure of atoms. We were privy to the world of Structural Biology with an engaging presentation from our guest speaker. Among the array of topics were amino acids, proteins, DNA, and H1N1 virus. All students successfully rose to the challenge of building a car powered only by one balloon for our New Milford 500 Derby. We all witnessed one balloon car that traveled 16.49 meters!

Students will continue their explorations into Forces and Motion before entering the examinations into Earth Science and the interactions of systems on this beautiful planet. This will be followed by our study of various areas in Life Science including DNA, mutations, and the use of the compound microscope.

Thank you,



Mrs. Lees



In 6th Grade Social Studies, we have been focusing on the United States of America as a young nation. The students quickly reviewed the Revolutionary War through individual projects that were shared with the class. Since then it has been business as usual. We have covered the formation of America's govern-

Social Studies: Mr. Galasso

ment with the founding of the Constitution. We continued with George Washington's Presidency and how his leadership was vital to get the nation on the right track. Currently, we are learning about the era of Thomas Jefferson, which includes the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the Burr-Hamilton Duel, and the War of 1812. In the coming months, we will explore the reasons for United States expansion and the Civil War. I anticipate getting through Reconstruction after the Civil War and then highlighting some key

events throughout the 20th century.

The students have also been learning about the countries of the world. We have already covered the five oceans and the continents of South America, Asia and the Middle East. Although we have taken a brief hiatus on our geography studies, we will resume with Europe and the U.S.A in February.

Thank you,



Mr. Galasso

Math: Mrs. LePage & Ms. Edelstein

We have been making great progress in mathematics. So far our classes have explored patterns, statistics, graphing and decimals. Currently, we are working with fractions and soon we will be working with ratios, percents and probability.

Along with our curriculum studies, the sixth grade math classes will welcome Mrs. Daley

once a week for a marking period. Mrs. Daley will be working with our classes on an exciting enrichment activity. Looking ahead to standardized testing, review lessons will begin soon.

It is hard to believe that the year

is half over. We are looking forward to a productive end to the year.

Thank you,

Mrs. LePage,

Ms. Edelstein

&

Ms. Andrychowska

