

STAR NEWS

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2009

MCCOURT MIDDLE SCHOOL STAR TEAM

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Thursday, November 19 and Wednesday, December 2. The first night is typically scheduled for parents whose last name begins with A-K and the second night for last names L-Z. We will also be available on Monday December 7th from 2:30—3:30. Your child will be coming home with a sign-up sheet this week. Appointments will be issued on a first come, first served basis. We will try to accommodate any special requests. You will receive a confirmation notice of your appointment time. The form is also available at mccourtmiddle.com

Appointments are scheduled at five minute intervals so that we may see as

many parents as possible. Our team will be split up into two groups. You will first meet in room 9 with Ms. Niedzwiedek (English), Mrs. Sadler (social studies) and Mrs. Dorrance (co-teacher). You will then move to room 11 to meet with Mrs. Slowik (science) and Mrs. Vanasse (math). A schedule will be posted outside each door.

Please be aware of the time constraints. If you feel you need more than the allotted 5 minutes, please call to reschedule your appointment.



STARS OF THE MONTH

Arianna Correia

Giovany Moreno

AND

Katherine Alberg

Congratulations!

Happy Baskets

McCourt Middle School has been an active participant in this worthwhile program for many years. Students are asked to bring in canned or other non-perishable goods to their homeroom. The goods are then distributed to the Happy Basket Program in Cumberland. The homeroom in each grade with the most goods receives a prize. We realize that budgets are tight right now, so any donation will be greatly appreciated.



Fundraiser

Our Entertainment Book fundraiser is coming to a close. Please purchase or return books by Friday, November 13th.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- November 4—PTO meeting 7 PM
- November 6—First Quarter ends
- November 11—No school, Veterans Day
- November 17—Picture Retakes
- November 19—Parent/Teacher Conferences
- November 26—27 No school, Thanksgiving
- December 1—H1N1 clinic
- December 2—Parent/Teacher Conferences
- December 7—Parent/Teacher Conferences
- December 24—January 4—Winter break

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English/Language Arts

In English class we will be starting to read our first class novel, Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick. The novel will be read during class and students will be responsible for related work at home. We will continue to cover our daily edits through Daily Oral Language (D.O.L.) Students will also be responsible for completing their Take Home Reading Program (T.H.R.P) each night. Students should be reading for a minimum of twenty minutes and completing a short summary of what they have read. These summaries should explain what happened in their reading and what caused this to happen.



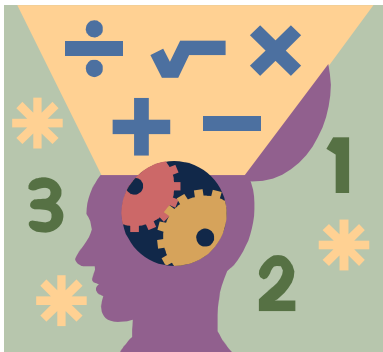
Math

We have learned how to find pattern and write equations with those patterns. Our mnemonic to help remember Order of Operations is **Purple** (parenthesis) **Elephants** (exponents) **May** (multiply) **Dance** (divide) **Across** (add) **Stars** (subtract). When helping your child, please remember that multiplication and division are solved in order from left to right, not all multiplication then division. Then solve the addition and subtraction the same way.

We are working on prime and composite numbers and finding the prime factorization of composite number. The divisibility rules that we learned earlier in the year will be of great importance.

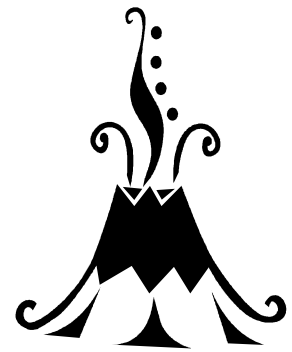
By December, we should be starting to add, subtract, multiply and divide with fractions.

There will only be one project for November and December. Information and rubric will be sent home the week of November 9th.



Science

During the months of September and October, the students worked very hard to be able to understand many terms associated with stress, faulting and landforms. They completed two lab reports in their scientist notebooks. During the month of November, our class discussions will revolve around earthquakes. The students will learn what an earthquake is, what causes these terrible disasters, how it commences, and the different types of waves associated with them. They will also address the relationship between a seismograph, a seismologist, a seismogram and the Richter scale. Finally, we will look at how scientists hope to improve their ability to accurately predict earthquakes in the future. Again, the vocabulary for this section is very crucial to the success of this section. Please be aware that your child will have flashcards for these terms and an outline containing pertinent materials. It is important they study them. Please make every effort to study with your child.



Social Studies

For the second quarter in social studies, we will continue working on map skills. We will be finishing up latitude and longitude and moving on to different kinds of maps. Then we will finish up with landforms and students will be making landform journals. There will be a final project for the map skills unit which will have students making a themed island and incorporating everything they learned in the map skills unit.



Guidance

Guidance News.....*from the desk of Lisa Albert*

The first quarter has ended and I am happy to report that everyone has survived! For most of the students and parents, the transition to middle school has been a positive one. Report cards should arrive at your house by Saturday, November 14th. I will be individually conferencing with students on the Star Team who are not meeting the expectations of the teachers.

In addition to conferencing with students, I will be starting two guidance groups focusing on organization and wellness. The groups will run for 8 weeks and students will be taken from their academic enrichment classes. If you have any questions about the guidance groups, please feel free to contact me.

Also, please plan on attending the parent/teacher conference nights scheduled for November 19th and December 2nd. In addition to the two evening nights, the Star team will also be scheduling appointments for a parent/teacher afternoon on Monday, December 7th from 2:20 to 3:30pm. Please ask your child for the appointment form. It was given to them on Wednesday, November 4th. The teachers are scheduling appointments so that parents do not have to wait a long time. We would love to meet the parents and guardians behind these great students! We are hoping we reach our goal of 100% parent participation. Please call me if you are not able to meet on the designated nights or afternoon.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 725-2092 x106.

