

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Oneida Middle School



We are off to a great start to the school year. There have been many changes to the schedule this school year. These changes within the district have allowed Oneida to offer new classes to seventh and eighth grade students that will increase their academic achievement. Along with these classes Oneida offers an hour tutorial program after school Monday – Thursday. This after-school program assists students with their homework and focuses on English and Math instruction. Students also have the opportunity to participate in the Boys and Girls Club program which runs until 5:45PM. Please take this opportunity and sign your child/ren up for these programs.

This month we have several things occurring at Oneida. Friday November 14 we have Ron “Cook” Barrett coming to speak to the students about gang awareness. He currently works with the Albany Police Department and has implemented a number of successful youth programs. “Cook” works with students that are influenced by this type of lifestyle. He will provide awareness to the students on this topic.

The eighth grade vocal music classes and orchestra are working with an artist-in-residence, HA!MAN, for the week November 17-21. They will be performing in a concert at Proctors Theater on November 21st at 7:00PM. This is a joint project with another Middle School. This is a great opportunity for our students and the community.

On Thursday November 13th there will be a parent informational night. This will provide parents with information that will assist them to prepare their child/ren for the New York State Exams. Parents will leave with items and strategies that will help your child/ren be confident when taking these tests.

This year Oneida will be collecting box tops for education. Your child can drop them off in the main office. This is an opportunity for Oneida to earn items.

As always if you have questions or concerns please call 370-8260 or e-mail administration at the following:

Karmen McEvoy – mcevoyk@schenectady.k12.ny.us

Lee Satterlee- satterleel@schenectady.k12.ny.us

Mark Brooks- brooksm@schenectady.k12.ny.us

FROM THE OFFICE

ATTENDANCE

Children are expected to be in attendance unless they are ill or have an appointment that cannot be scheduled before or after school hours. After any absence, your child is required to bring in a written excuse, stating the reason for the absence. In addition, parents are required to call the school if a child is to be kept home for any reason. The number to call for attendance is 370-8266.

EARLY DISMISSALS

In order to eliminate unnecessary disruptions to the educational process, please try to make appointments for your child before, after school or during vacations. Should it be necessary for your child to be excused early from school, please be sure to send them to school that day with a note indicating the time they will be picked up. We will have your child waiting for you upon your arrival.

VISITORS

To help ensure the daily safety of students and staff, security systems are installed at the main entrances of each building in the district. Visitors must ring the bell located on the wall to the right of the door. Main office personnel will then verify identities of the visitors and the reason for the visit. Access will be granted upon verification, and personnel will unlock the door. Once inside the building, all visitors must report immediately to the main office to sign in.

MESSAGES

If there is an emergency, call the school office at 370-8260 and make clear that it is an emergency. We do not interrupt the school day for non-emergency messages.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Main Office	370-8260
Health Office	370-8262
Guidance	370-8261
Attendance	370-8266
Social Worker	881-2000
	X32101
Transportation	370-8103

NURSES' NOTES



Welcome back to school.

Please make sure the nurse is aware of your child's life - threatening allergies and medical conditions. Please make sure you have sent back your emergency blue cards with current working home numbers or cell numbers. It is very important that the nurse can reach a parent during the day in case of an emergency.

New York State is mandating that all **6th graders** that are 11 years of age have a booster immunization for diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis called the **Tdap**. This should have been done prior to the start of the first day of school. If you are not sure, please call your physician today and make an appointment ASAP please.

All **7th graders** need a current school physical on record. If you do **not** want your child examined by the school doctor please let the nurse know. We encourage all parents to have their child examined by their own physician, if possible, to encourage good parent physician rapport and continuity of care.

Please encourage your child to eat something either at home in the am or to get to school early enough in the A.M. to eat in our cafeteria.



BREAKFAST is the most important meal of the day. Teenagers don't always like to eat a full breakfast but even a glass of milk, granola bar, banana or anything that they can grab and go is better than an empty stomach.

Please make sure if your student has **ASTHMA** that we have a new inhaler at school with written parent permission and a note from the doctor stating permission to administer at school. Please don't hesitate to call the nurse with any questions or concerns at 370-8262.

Keeping Your Child Safe

Workshop

November 18th, 6:30-8:00 P.M.

PTO/PPT

(Parent Teacher Organization/ Parent Partnership Team)

The Parent Teacher Organization/Parent Partnership Team is looking for new members. If you are interested in getting more involved at Oneida please come to our first meeting.

Upcoming Meetings:

November 18th

*Meetings begin at 6:30 in the library

Literacy at Oneida

I am pleased to announce that the sixth grade is participating in Book It! Students are encouraged to read for enjoyment within and outside of the classroom.

On November 13th we will hold a National Young Readers Day celebration by having "celebrity" readers come into the sixth grade classrooms.

School wide news includes, students are participating in a word of the day activity that links with word walls many teachers have started.

I look forward to meeting parents at the NYS testing night November 13th.

Sincerely,

Michele Stewart-Mannino Literacy Coach

Technology Education at Oneida Middle School offers exciting opportunities for students. They have been using their creativity to design and make a variety of projects. Some seventh graders have been busy making a Pyramid Peg game that connected to a measurement unit and got them started on learning how to use a drill press and scroll saw, some students are constructing spaghetti structures that connect to a material structures unit and others students are making rockets that connect to an air/space travel unit. The eighth graders are finishing a manufacturing thermoforming project that have them create a design mold and then use a process of thermoforming (heat shaping) plastic to make their finished work and soon they will start a wood design project.

October is a special time for New York State technology teachers. It isn't just because we have survived the first month of school. The end of October is when SUNY Oswego holds its annual technology conference. This year marked the 69th anniversary of this event. Mr. Carmola and I are both graduates from SUNY Oswego. It is always a pleasure to attend this event and revisit our Alma mater. The conference offers a wide variety of vendors, technology exhibits and instructional presentations. It would be hard to come away without something of value that can be shared with students and colleagues and integrated into our already diverse curriculum. This year was no exception.



CO2 dragsters are a project that allows students to learn about material processing, forces and electronics in a hands on setting. There is one problem with this project that affects us here at Schenectady more than other schools. We operate on very tight budget. A solution to this was presented at the conference this year. Instead of using a non-reusable, expensive CO2 cartridge for every student's car, a new system was presented. This system involves using compressed air from an air compressor and building an inexpensive PVC pipe and electronic valve setup. This system costs approximately seventy dollars to construct and will be a one time fee. This means more money can be spent on other materials for our curriculum in the years to come. It is also more environmental friendly as there is no waste created and it just recycles the air we breathe.

The Schenectady Technology Department would like to extend its gratitude to SUNY Oswego and all the people that make this great event possible every year.

News from 6th Grade Art with Mr. Watrous: As the days grew shorter and the nights longer, 6th graders artists enjoyed making night-time street scenes with subject matter appropriate to the season. Chalk drawings included silhouettes in artificial and natural sources of light.

Mr. Murello → Art in November

7th Grade- Students have recently completed a wax resist design where we used crayons and watercolors to experiment with how the wax in a crayon and water colors interact. This project started a drawing unit where students will be creating sketchbooks to record ideas and drawings. Students will use the sketchbooks to complete a number of drawing assignments in a variety of art medium.

8th Grade- In the last project of the quarter for the 8th graders they will be using sketchbooks that they make to work on figure drawing. Concepts that will be introduced are the proportions of the human body, gesture drawings, contour line drawings, and blind contour line drawings. Students that will be starting Art this month will be introduced to the five types of line, and non-objective art.

A Note from the Library

Q: What never goes out of date, doesn't need dusting, and won't cost almost \$1,000?

A: Your very own subscription to **World Book Online!** Not your parents' encyclopedia, it's a multi-media treasure trove—not just words, but high-resolution photos, maps, sounds, and videos. All Oneida students have access to this electronic resource 24/7. Several of the sixth-grade classes have been using *World Book Online* to help them evaluate the effectiveness of recent Presidents. (Good work, sixth-graders!)

Besides a really great encyclopedia, atlas, dictionary, etc., there are fun quizzes

<http://www.worldbookonline.com/wb/ListQuiz>

and plans for building your tyrannosaurus rex

http://www.worldbookonline.com/wb/Students?science_projects/dinosaur

And for each article, a **Related Information Box** includes web sites selected by the editors of *World Book* for their educational value and suitability for young people. There are also magazine articles furnished through a partnership with EBSCO Information Services—these are not necessarily written for younger readers, but they come from clearly identified, reputable magazines and newspapers. To find it all (and probably some other tidbits with which to amaze the librarian!)—

Go to the SCSD home page

<http://www.schenectady.k12.ny.us/>

Choose **Oneida MS** from the **Select a School** box. Scroll way down on the far right side of page to the **Library Website** (in between Finding Us and the PTO). Click on **DATABASES**, then click on **World Book Online**. At school, users are good to go.

If students need to use *World Book Online* at home, the ID is **oneida1** and the password is **library**.

Happy hunting in this rich resource!

Ms. Phillips

Oneida Music Department Notes



HA!Man concert: Mainstage at Proctors- Friday, November 21 at 7pm

Our Oneida Orchestra and 8th grade chorus have been selected to work and perform with Francois le Roux also known as "Ha! Man." Ha! Man is a spontaneous, independent and global performer who has agreed to be a part of Proctor's Dangerous Music Series. Through Proctor's and the New York State Music Fund, your youngster will have the opportunity to work with this Artist - In Residence and also perform with him at Proctor's Theatre during his show scheduled for Friday, November 21st. Participating students should have received a permission slip and information letter from their music teacher. Please return the permission slip as soon as possible!

Our Oneida Middle School Winter Concert dates:

(Part 1) **Thursday, December 11** at 7pm- 8th grade chorus, Orchestra, Band, Jazz Band
(Part 2) **Thursday, December 18** at 7pm- 6th grade chorus, 7th grade chorus, Harmonears

*Winter Concert **Snow** dates (in the event of no school/afterschool activities are cancelled) :*

December 17 (Band, Jazz Band, 8th grade chorus)

(Orchestra would perform on the 12/18 concert if 12/11 is snowed out to accommodate Mr. L)

December 22 (6th grade chorus, 7th grade chorus, Harmonears)

Mrs. Lee leem@schenectady.k12.ny.us

7th and 8th grade chorus and general music

Mrs. Downs downsj@schenectady.k12.ny.us

7th and 8th grade chorus and general music, Harmonears

Ms. Tonkin- tonkina@schenectady.k12.ny.us

6th Grade General Music and Chorus Tuesdays 8:45-10:28, Wednesdays 8:45-11:00

At the start of the school year, on your child's school supply list there should have been the need for a music folder. Some 6th grade students have these and have brought them to class, but many have not. If your child has not brought one, please have them bring it the next time they come to class because they need them to use in class. It doesn't have to be fancy...just a plain old 2-pocket folder will do! Thank you!

The sixth grade general music classes are beginning a unit on making instruments, which will include composing toward the end. The students are already enjoying the opportunity to make simple, yet fun and effective, homemade instruments. They have already begun making balloon maracas using ordinary party balloons and birdseed. Ideas for most of the instruments that will be made come from the book "Percussion Instruments Made Out of Found Objects: Exploring Color/Tone/Texture...A Continual Work in Progress" written and demonstrated by local master percussionist Brian Melick (who also happens to be Miss Tonkin's uncle!!). My hope is that the students will eventually be bringing their "found object" instruments home to share with all of you!

Please enjoy the weather and your month of November. Be well and stay safe!

Warmly,
Miss Tonkin :-)

**Mr. Pray prayk@schenectady.k12.ny.us
Band + Jazz Band (Monday, Tuesdays and Thursdays)**

Band rehearsals are in full swing and students are working hard for their winter concert. Students should be practicing several times a week at home to prepare their music. Consistency is the most important part of their growth in music so please encourage them at home. Attendance at lessons, rehearsals and concerts are a required part of the course, however I understand that academic issues come up. If there is a legitimate excuse for missing class all that is needed is a note from the teacher or parent and the absence will not affect the grade. Thanks and I am pleased at the progress being made in the band room by all of the students and remember band is a team activity so everyone plays an important roll from the parents to the students to the teachers so let's work together to build a great band!

Mr. Keith Pray

**Mr. Lawrence lawrencem@schenectady.k12.ny.us
Orchestra (Wednesdays and Fridays)**

Orchestra students are busying rehearsing music for the HalMan performance at Proctors as well as the winter concert. Students should be practicing on their instruments at home daily as well as attending their weekly lesson and twice-weekly orchestra rehearsals. Students need to remember to notify Mr. Lawrence if the need to miss a lesson to attend class.

Thank you for your continued support, Mr. Michael Lawrence

Attention Schenectady School District Families!!
Please Join The Friends Of Music

What Is Friends of Music?

Friends Of Music is a volunteer organization of parents and teachers who want to support the music programs in the Schenectady City School District. We want every child who desires it to have an instrument or take part in our music programs. The Schenectady School District FOM looks for ways to solicit donation of used instruments, and raise funds to help purchase new or used instruments, repair those we already have, and to provide funding for new vocal/instrumental music, transportation and other music related operating expenses in the district. Last year, FOM donated money, instruments, music, supplies and other items totaling over \$3000 to Schenectady City School District music programs.

Who Can Join?

Parents, teachers, and other family members of students in grades K-12 in the Schenectady City School District

What Does FOM Do?

- | | |
|--|---|
| Purchase music and instruments for vocal and instrumental programs | |
| Repair instruments | Solicit donations of instruments |
| Present graduating senior with awards celebrations | Participate in district wide musical |
| Host concerts auditions | Assist with costs of music competitions and |

Why Do We Need FOM?

The Schenectady City School District is the *largest* school district in the capital district. While the district is very supportive of the arts in general, and music in particular, the size of Schenectady schools makes it hard to meet the demands of an ever increasing population.

How Do I Join? How Can I Help?

- A FOM membership form is attached below. Join at whatever membership level you can afford.
- Donate an old instrument – Simply contact FOM at the address below or email sweisse@nycap.rr.com .
- Support our fundraising efforts:
 1. Citrus Fruit fundraiser Oct1-31st. Order through students or online at <http://www.fruitorder.com> Organization ID # 262470
 2. Purchase a Music Department Discount Card for \$10 (at concerts or via email at sweisse@nycap.rr.com)
- Attend our meetings: First Tuesday of each month Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec.2, Jan 6, Feb. 3, etc...
in FA14 Schenectady High 7PM

Friends of Music Membership Info:

Name _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____
Child(ren)'s School: _____

Tear off & send w/check payable to: *Friends of Music*
c/o Rachel Gayne Schenectady High School, 1445 The Plaza, Schenectady, NY 12304

PE News

<p style="text-align:center"><u>Membership Levels</u> (names will be listed in 2008-9 by level in concert programs & on the district website)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Maestro --- \$75 and up<input type="checkbox"/> Concertmaster --- \$50<input type="checkbox"/> Soloist ----\$25<input type="checkbox"/> Section leader ----\$10<input type="checkbox"/> Member ---\$5
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The upcoming units for our students include: lacrosse, floor hockey and basketball. As a reminder students need to bring proper attire to change into. If a student is absent it is their responsibility to ask the teacher for make up work. With the snow soon upon us, boots are not allowed. Students can wear boots to class, but they must change into their sneakers previous to the start of class. We have just completed handball and soccer.

Thank you
PE Staff

November Newsletter from Discovery

Check out some timely election resources from Discovery Education in the November issue of Discovery Education streaming Newsletter at

<http://view.exacttarget.com/?j=fe6315787764017f7011&m=ff2e1677762&ls=fde61277726707757214777c&l=fe6315757764017d7c12&s=fe5e11777765067f7c11&jb=ffcf14&ju=fe31167176650174751776>

Explore the context of the U.S. election, learn from DEN Virtual Conference sessions at your leisure, register for a webinar with Alan Kay, and more.

Inspire students with videos, images, articles, audio files and more to bring Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving, and National American Indian Heritage Month to life.

Enjoy!

Tracy Standhart

7th Grade Learning Center
Mr. Scott and Mr. Kolowski Rm. 13

Math- We just finished a unit on probability where we examined different ways probability can be used, such as coins, dice, cards, spinners, and tree diagrams. We are currently working on plotting points on a coordinate plane, using the X and Y axis. We will be starting a unit on positive and negative integers soon.

ELA- We have been working primarily on improving our writing, using different graphic organizers and outlines. We are starting a unit on note taking, creating outlines and writing reports using this information.. We have also been doing weekly spelling units and daily journal writing assignments.

If parents have any questions or concerns, please contact me at Oneida Middle School or by email at

scottt@schenectady.k12.ny.us

Ms. Vargas

We are working extremely hard in 7th and 8th grade. Several of the students continue to strive for their goal - to attend main streamed classes. Each student is consciously working on the behaviors and trying to maintain a positive learning environment. I would like to say that I am very proud of each and every child because some days are tougher than others to maintain themselves. I look forward to next quarter being as successful as the first. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me at school 370-8260 or via email vargasf@schenectady.k12.ny.us

English - Finish reading Rules of the Road

- weekly spelling words (test on every Friday)
- writing - (becoming a better writer through journals and free writing)

Math - Integers - we already learned addition and now we are moving onto subtraction, multiplication and division

Science - learning to use triple beam balances - graduated cylinders, and beakers

Social Studies - 7th - finishing with the Aztec
8th - continuing on with Immigration

7th grade BSI English and Mathematics

Students have completed reading three more books in our SOAR reading program: Wild Bears, Arturo's Baton and Emperor Penguin. Students are learning to use two different software programs on the computer to complete comprehension activities related to the books they're reading: "Inspiration" and "Microsoft PowerPoint." We will continue focusing on the four reading strategies throughout the year: predicting, clarifying, questioning, and summarizing. The 1st quarter will be closing soon and report cards will be mailed home. If you have any questions or concerns regarding grades, you can schedule a meeting with your child's teachers by calling the guidance office.

Our math class has just finished up a unit on probability. Students played probability games and learned to create tree diagrams to predict outcomes. Students are continuing to practice their basic facts in addition, subtraction, and multiplication. Please encourage your child to practice their multiplication tables if they have not yet memorized them. Our next unit will cover integers. (positive and negative numbers)

I have begun to offer one day after school (Thursday) to assist students in completing homework or to re-teach concepts that are difficult. If you are interested in having your child stay after school please contact me for more information. There is busing available if you need transportation. If you have any other questions or concerns please contact me by

phone or email. (boulayl@schenectady.k12.ny.us) Please check your child's agenda each night to see if there is any homework.

Thank you,
Ms. Boulay
Consultant Teacher

News from Mr. Hebert's 6th Grade Room 101

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I can't believe it is November already!! This year is flying by! We have learned so much already in this short period of time. In Science we are going to be learning about the Rock Cycle and the three types of rocks: Igneous, Metamorphic, and Sedimentary. In math we are starting decimals. We are learning how to write them in standard, word, and expanded form. In Social Studies we are learning about the Fertile Crescent (Mesopotamia), and we will be starting Egypt very soon. Finally, in ELA we will be starting our first novel, Holes. We will read the story together and divide into groups to have meaningful discussions and work on a project that will connect to the story. Remember, nobody circles the wagons like.....THE BUFFALO BILLS!!!

Have a wonderful November,
Mr. Hebert

Nicastro News

We are off to great start this year! The students in 103 have been working very hard and have accomplished a lot this month. In ELA we have been working on writing business letters using the different phases of writing. These include prewriting, drafting, revising and editing. The students are now beginning to type their letters. They enjoyed going to the computer lab to finish their writing. Along with this, we have been busy reading a lot of new stories in our Scott Foresman Reading Series. We have been focusing on making connections, asking questions and stating opinions. The students really enjoy reading aloud and discussing what they have read. Ask them to read to you at home!

We have now completed chapters one and two in math. The students have learned how to evaluate all different kinds of equations. Some of these include solving algebraic expressions and finding the area of rectangles. Have them practice finding the area of things at home using the formula length x width.

In social studies, we have begun discussing The Fertile Crescent and Mesopotamia. The students are continuing to work on proper note-taking skills. It is important for them to be writing neatly and keeping their notebooks organized by subject area. Please feel free to ask them to bring their notebooks home so you can take a look at their notes! They should be bringing notebooks home to study for tests and quizzes in all subject areas.

Lastly, in science we are learning about minerals. The students have brought in many different kinds of rocks and crystals to share with the class. I always welcome anything they have at home to share that relates with what we are studying. We are now learning how to identify minerals by their physical properties. They have found this unit very interesting!

Please as always feel free to contact me with any questions and concerns!

Ms. Nicastro

Mrs. Zotta

6th Grade

zotta@schenectady.k12.ny.us

We've had such a busy month! We completed Chapter 1 in Math and now moving along in Chapter 3. We are currently studying and practicing skills in Adding and subtracting decimals. Students created flashcards to remember different forms of decimals, i.e., written and standard form. They also had fun ordering decimal cards by using the three steps learned in class.

In Social Studies, we are now studying Ancient Civilization. We spent the first day analyzing and interpreting a primary source of a cave painting. Students created a mural capturing our lives today. The themes were sports, election, technology, and fashion trends. Students also read for information and generated notes and summary from the reading.

We finished our "Dino" experiment. Did your child share their results with you? After testing "Dino" and comparing results, we found that the data did not support the manufacturer's claim that "Dino" will "expand 600%". We've connected this with ELA by writing a business letter to express our concerns and comments we had, and also ask for suggestions for improvement. Students typed their business letter.

As a class, we are reading 100 books to help kids in need through Scholastic book club. When 100 books have been read, 100 books will be donated to a school in need of a classroom library. As students finish a book, they are required to turn in a summary and fill out the reading chart. Our goal is to read 110 book by December 19th. Please support your child in reading at least 20 minutes a day.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank parents for their support in signing their child's log on a daily basis. As team, we can foster learning, and support them every way possible. It is great to see the support team in place.

Please mark your calendars for Parent-Teacher Conferences coming up on November 10th, November 19th, and December 2nd!! You should have received a letter and the available times for conferences. A reminder slip will go home a week before the conference.

Also, I'd like to remind you that I have an account with schoolnotes.com. To access homework assignments and classroom news, go to www.schoolnotes.com, you'll get the screen that asks you to type in our zip code - 12308, click on Oneida MS and then Mrs. Zotta.

Mrs. Stevenson Room 101
November Newsletter

This month has been filled with so many interesting activities. Our studies have taken us all over from the election, to prehistory in Social Studies to decimals in Math. We wrapped up our study and analysis of the Presidential Election. Throughout the month of October and into early November we researched, read, and completed various activities about the election process, voting process, both the republican and democratic candidates. Students were also involved with a school wide mock election in which a real voting machine was brought in for students to cast their vote on who they believed should be the next president of the United States. In other content areas, we read a short novel, Sadako and When finished with Sadako students analyzed characters through the actions, thoughts and words. Students then wrote obituaries about the main character Sadako. Now we are reading The Whipping Boy and we are focused on authors' choice of words to bring a story alive. In science we are deep into our study of the Sun-Earth and Moon system. Students are about to start studying the solar system in depth and will be writing research reports to share what they've learned about one particular aspect of the Solar System. As we study early civilizations in social studies students will be involved in a play about Mesopotamia. It's been an exciting first three months of the school year. Coming up, we are looking to have a family potluck dinner to honor and celebrate the many cultures represented in our class.

SEVENTH GRADE

Math news from Mrs. O'Hare

Math 7 and 7A

Math 7 - We're still working hard, well into the second quarter.

We've taken the first Formative Assessment given throughout the district to all my Math 7 students. Some questions were very challenging but we gave it our best effort.

In class we've finished our unit on Collecting and Displaying Data and are now working on Probability. This unit can be fun because we do some interesting activities to figure out how probability works. From here we'll be moving on to the Integers Unit and then on to Linear Equations and Functions which may bring us up to or close to our Holiday Recess in December.

Math 7A - We've also continued to work hard into the second quarter.

We didn't take the first Formative Assessment but will be participating when the second one comes around.

We've wrapped up our unit on Integers and are working on our Equations and Inequalities Unit. After that we'll be moving on to our unit on Percents and Applying Percents which may bring us up to or close to the Holiday Recess in December.

For all students, feel free to sign out a textbook if you feel it would help to have one at home to review what we've done in class. Parents can also request one by sending me an e-mail or a note with your child. Don't hesitate to contact me at ohared@schenectady.k12.ny.us anytime you have questions or concerns about your child's progress. Thanks,

Mrs. O'Hare

Social Studies - Ms. Karl

We are progressing in our unit about the original 13 colonies and why the settlers chose to come here. Students have been assigned topics and will be giving short presentations on the information that they have learned. Once we are done with the original 13 colonies, we will be moving onto the problems the colonists had with the British and their harsh rule over the colonists. There will be many in-class activities and it is important that students are in class every day. If your child is absent, please remind them that it is their responsibility to get any missed work.

Parents please check out <http://new.schoolnotes.com> If you type in the zip code "12308" and find my name, you can find out what has been going on in class, as well as what students should be completing for homework.

I have office hours on Thursdays from 3:10-3:40. Students can come at this time to work on back work or get help on a current assignment. I can always be reached by email: karls@schenectady.k12.ny.us .

I hope everyone has a happy and safe Thanksgiving!

English with Ms. Simms

November began with a wrap up of our Freak the Mighty unit. Students worked closely to study the characterization in the novel by creating character collages and character projects. We then did a juxtaposition mini unit with the film adaptation of the novel, *The Mighty*. The students enjoyed the film, and analyzed it through comparison to the novel.

We are now working hard to prepare for the ELA exam, which is fast approaching. Throughout the rest of November we will be studying nonfiction pieces. Students are encouraged to read full-length pieces outside of the classroom. I have many they are welcome to sign out.

I have office hours on Mondays from 3:10 to 3:40. Students are welcome to stop by for extra help or to make up work for partial credit. They may also come during lunch to get help or read quietly and work on stories many of them are writing.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

SimmsA@Schenectady.k12.ny.us

Science 7 – Mrs. Reilly

We began the month of November talking about the Life Functions. We determined the difference between a living and a non-living thing. Ask your student about "The Creature Feature". Was it alive? Why or why not?

We will continue the rest of the month talking about cells. All living things are made of cells and we will look at the difference between animal cells and plant cells. There are several exciting labs planned. Students will have a look at their own cheek cells (an example of animal cells) as well as red onion cells (plant cells). There is also a computer project planned so please make sure your student's computer permission forms are in.

English 7

Mr. Spivey

We are finishing up the novel, Freak the Mighty. If you have previously read this novel, please don't spoil the surprise ending. Students have enjoyed reading this book and they have learned a lot from their classmates about bullying and the consequences of being a social outcast. After we complete the book, students will be directed to write a recommendation letter to their English teacher. Students will answer the questions: "To whom would you recommend this book?" And "Should this novel be used next year?" They will use details from the story to support their argument.

For the next few weeks we will survey non-fiction literature to help students prepare for the state exams.

SEVENTH GRADE

Mr. McDonald

Math 7

The 7th grade class has been working finished up the Unit on Probability. Currently we are working on the next Unit on Integers. Students should be able to remember some tricks on how to add, subtract, multiply and divide integers. All homework is posted on <http://new.schoolnotes.com>

Math 7 Advanced

The 7th grade advanced has finished the Unit on Integers. Students should be able to follow the rules for adding and multiplying integers with the order of operations. Currently we are working on algebra skills for solving equations.

All homework is posted on <http://new.schoolnotes.com>

Mr. McShane

Our 7th and 8th grade social studies classes are off to a great start and we are ready to explore new areas of history. As each day goes by we get to know each other better. As a result, social studies class in room 111 has become a very friendly environment.

Our 7th graders are finishing up learning about the earliest cultures and civilizations in the Americas. Next will spend some time on the explorers before we head into our next big topic, the creation of the 13 colonies.

We have also spent a lot of time discussing the Presidential election. We were fortunate to have an actual voting booth brought to school and the kids got a chance to place their own vote. Hopefully they are going home and impressing you with their knowledge of the election process!!

The kids are doing great and we are trying to have as much fun as we can while learning about our past. We are all settled in nicely and looking forward to the rest of the fall.

Mrs. Henze's 7th grade Science News:

We have completed Classification of Living Things and will now begin investigating the similarities of all living things. Once students understand that all living things share similar characteristics, we can concentrate on the Human Body! First we will talk about cells and the differences between animal and plant cells. Next we will look at the world of microorganisms, observing the world of the very small through the eye of a microscope. We will be doing a fair amount of writing in science in science notebooks and in reports. For those students who have an eye for art, we will be doing scientific

drawings of cell organelles (cell parts) and a Cell T-shirt project



EIGHTH GRADE

Mrs. Mostransky/Mr. Kruger (SOCIAL STUDIES)
Mostranskym@schenectady.k12.ny.us

8th graders have been learning about Westward Expansion and Immigration in the late 1800s and their impact on the Labor Movement. We read excerpts from Upton Sinclair's novel, The Jungle, and students were able to get an idea about the reforms that were necessary in society in the early 1900s! We made book covers for The Jungle that demonstrated the grave atrocities that occurred in the meat packing plants of Chicago. Our school librarian, Mrs. Phillips will serve as our judge for the best looking covers. These will be displayed in the library window and winners will be announced in the next newsletter!

Currently, we are studying American Expansion and the Spanish-American War. We will then be focusing on the First World War and its impact on America before the holiday break. Have a safe and happy holiday season!

Ms. Van Allen **English 8**

This month in English we will be finishing up our unit on the novel The Invention of Hugo Cabret. Once we have finished, we will be moving on to our unit on utopian societies based around the novel

The Giver by Lois Lowry. We will be discussing the factors which make successful societies, studying real utopian societies, and creating the perfect community of our own!

This past month the 8th graders began *The Amazing Reading Race*. This is a competition between the 8th grade English classes (and teachers) to see who can read the most books outside of the classroom. So far period 7 is in the lead! Good work readers! Keep it up!

DiVietro → TEAM 8A SCIENCE NEWS - NOVEMBER

In science this month we working on changes in states of matter and studying the property of density. We will be doing several activities involving finding the density of different substances. In order to do this we will be using items such as triple beam balances, graduated cylinders, eggs, salt and water! It might get messy, but we are learning some valuable skills and content!! Ask your child what the formula for density is and what the density of water is!! These are the first two things we will be discovering!!

Article reviews will continue to be assigned through the second quarter. Please check you child's agenda book to find article review due dates and the other day-to-day homework assignments. Something new this year - you can check the website new.schoolnotes.com to check daily homework. Go to the website, type in the school zip code (12308), find Mrs. DiVietro, click on my section and get a daily list of homework assignments.

Also, students will still be required to keep a binder of all science materials. These binders are collected and graded each quarter. At the end of the quarter students will take out some papers and leave them in a file in our classroom. By doing this, students can get a "fresh start" the second quarter and still keep all their materials to study for their state assessments in April and May!

Math 8A/8

Ms. Owens

Hello Team 8A Mathematicians! So far we've had a great start to the year!

Math 8

- We've been learning how to add/subtract and multiply/divide integers, use the order of operations and properties to help us solve one-step equations, solve 2- and multi-step equations. We have just recently finished learning about functions, graphing functions, lines and equations, looking at the Pythagorean Theorem, rates, ratios and proportions, and lastly percents.
- Our next steps will take us into reviewing for our Midterm. Hopefully this will be given before December Break. This will be taken in-class.

Math 8A

- So far we've explored the properties and order of operations, adding/ subtracting/ multiplying/ dividing integers and real numbers, solving 1-, 2- and multi-step equations, rates, ratios, proportions and percents. We have also been learning about inequalities, sets, functions, and how to graph functions, lines, equations, slope, and slopes of parallel and perpendicular lines.
- Our next steps will take us into learning about systems of equations and inequalities and how to graph them.
- After this, we will be preparing for our MIDTERM which will most likely be given at the end of December, or the beginning of January. This will be taken in-class, and graphing calculators will be provided.

Homework is still given out on a class-by-class basis. It is due the next day, unless otherwise stated. Although students are given some time to start/finish homework in class, they should have something to practice at home every night. Practicing working with integers/ signed numbers through the use of flash cards would be something that could be done at home that would help all students.

EIGHTH GRADE

English

This month we are continuing on with The Invention of Hugo Cabret. We are studying early movies and special effects techniques, and we have used Georges Melies artwork as inspiration for creative writing.

As always, we are reading an Article of the Week each and every week. Please be on the look out for the article, they are handed out on Monday and are always due on Friday.

The ELA test is fast approaching. The more your child is reading, the better they will do on this test. We have begun a reading contest called The Amazing Reading Race. Students read books on their own and when they are finished they complete a "book sheet". The "book sheets" are available in the classroom. After handing in the sheets and discussing the book with me they will receive extra credit and a form to fill in for the wall. Each class is competing and there will be other prizes along the way. Please encourage your child to participate in this race.

Ms. Bonheim

Mr. O'Connor Social Studies 8B occonnord@schenectady.k12.ny.us

For the past month we have been working on the reconstruction period and westward expansion. We have also spent a great deal of time on the election process and the presidential race. Currently we are learning about immigration and industrialization in the late 1800s and the early 1900s. The students will complete a DBQ essay on immigration, and then we will be starting our unit on the Progressive Movement.

Each student usually has a summary reading that acts as a study guide and a vocabulary list. You can help your student by quizzing them on the vocabulary and the facts from the reading.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. You can leave me a message at the main office, and I will return your call, or you can contact me directly by email.

Ms. Kerr

Science 8

Congratulations on a successful finish to the 1st quarter. As the days are getting shorter, and the temperatures colder we will be entering the 2nd quarter when the focus in science will be matter! We will start with an overview of solids, liquids and gases. This will lead into phase changes with a connection to the water cycle. Then we will be classifying matter as an element, mixture or solution and perform a lab in which we create Oobleck! (Not sure what Oobleck is? Refer to Dr. Seuss!) We will also be looking at the structure of an atom and exploring the Periodic Table. One of the most noteworthy topics in these units is the concept of density. Density is looked at in depth as it relates to identifying materials, whether an object will float, and how liquids layer. There will be an interesting variety of labs and demonstrations!

Mr. Nocito
Grade 8 Math

In Math 8, we have been busy working with functions and equations. We have graphed given functions by using a Table of Values. We have been given the Domain(input values) and come up with the Range.(output value) We have taken these values and graphed the given line.

The students also have found the slope of a given line by using the slope formula or by reading a graph.(rise over run) We have worked with equations in Slope-Intercept form. They have had to write equations from given words or graph and have to graph from given equations

We have begun to work with Right Triangles and using the Pythagorean Theorem.

In Algebra, we finished working with equations, rates, ratios and proportions. We are now working on inequalities and functions. We have had a slow period with some of these subjects. We really need to get working to get ready for the mid-term

Remember, there is homework most nights so please get these assignments completed. You can check out the assignments by looking on the district's home access program. You can look up your child's grades and assignments. Make sure you sign up. You can also go to www.schoolnotes.com Zip Code 12308 Nocito and look up each day's assignment for my class. I keep the assignments posted for a five week period.

Feel free to contact me anytime at nocitod@schenectady.k12.ny.us

Thank you,
Mr. Nocito