

NEWPORT MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

SPECIAL EDITION

UPCOMING EVENTS/ DATES OF NOTE:

- ⇒ January 29th, 4-A field trip to Perfect North Slopes
- ⇒ January 29th, Cincinnati Playhouse production of *Cyrano*
- ⇒ February 3rd, Cincinnati Opera performance of *OH Freedom!*
- ⇒ February 9th, SBDMC meeting @ 3:30 p.m. in the library
- ⇒ February 12th, Valentine's Dance, 7-9 p.m. Admission: \$5
- ⇒ February 15th, no school, Presidents' Day
- ⇒ February 23rd, Student/Faculty Basketball Game (proceeds to Haitian relief)

MESSAGE FROM THE OCELOTS (6TH GRADE)



Wow! We have completed half of our sixth grade year and now look forward to a great second half. And while we have had to bid "Farewell" to some of our students, we are fortunate to say "Hello" to some terrific new ones. Be looking out for great things to come from the Ocelots!

Language Arts: Ocelot students are beginning to write their memoirs, as they investigate

their family backgrounds for interesting stories, anecdotes, etc.

Math: Classes are starting to investigate geometry using the CMP text, "Shapes and Designs."

Science: Classes are finishing their studies of rocks, minerals, earthquakes, and volcanoes.

Social Studies: Classes have moved south of the border to Mexico and then will continue to study Central and South America.

MESSAGE FROM THE LEOPARDS (6TH GRADE)



FUN EVENTS

The Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park will bring a play production of *Cyrano* to NMS on **Friday, January 29th**. Later, we will take a field trip to tour the Playhouse, where their staff will explain the different parts of the stage, the backstage and how things work, such as trapdoors that allow the actors to disappear off the stage, etc.

Students qualifying for the the 4-A Program will be going skiing at Perfect North Slopes on **January 29th**. For those not familiar with the program, 4-A provides rewards for students meeting standards in Academics, Attendance, Attitude and Activities. Students receive individual rewards for each standard they meet, with a larger reward if they meet all four standards (such as the field trip to Natural Bridge this past October, skiing at Perfect North Slopes this month and canoeing on the Little Miami River later in May).

Mr. Turner's homeroom won the Food Drive Contest that took place prior to the Winter Break. Congrats to his students who soon will be rewarded with a pizza party!

As teachers, we would like to congratulate all Leopard students who qualified for the Honor Roll. We had seven students who received all As, 25 who had all As and Bs, and 15 who had As, Bs and one C. To reward their outstanding effort, each student received a certificate honoring the achievement, was permitted to watch a movie and enjoyed supervised recreational time.

CLASSROOM NEWS

Language Arts: Since the start of the New Year, we have focused on writing, spelling and grammar. As such, students will be composing a personal memoir about a person, place or object. Parents, here you can assist your children by telling (re-telling) family stories that will help them discover great writing material.

We also will be studying drama and fine arts performance with the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park. In support, staff from the Playhouse will visit our classes to work with our students.

Math: Leopard students continue working on the unit "Shapes and Designs," which sets the stage for learning the basics of geometry, such as polygons and the relationships among shapes.

Science: Leopards have been studying matter, including the mass and volume of substances that bodies are made of. Soon, we will study the constructive and destructive forces of nature.

Social Studies: During the third-grading period we will be studying Latin America, including Mexico, the countries of Central America, the Caribbean and South America. Every student will study the country of Mexico, after which they will then choose one of the other countries of the region and develop a project for that country.

Later, we will study North Africa and Southwest Asia. While studying these regions, we will also examine their history in detail in preparation for 7th-grade social studies.

Parents: please remember to keep your child well-stocked with the tools they need for school including pencils, paper, folders, etc. You should know, our students have been doing a tremendous job managing their behavior during school. Remind your child to keep up the

PHYS. ED. DEPT.

Second-semester PE Students have been learning a variety of teamwork activities, recently completing a round-robin hockey tournament. Future lessons include: bowling,



basketball, dance... and much more.

Students, you are reminded to bring a folder with a binder to Mr. Middleton's classes. The PE folder will be used to hold writing assignments.

LIFESKILLS

In Life Skills we are studying self-esteem, bullying, setting goals and other topics related to personal health & well being. Students will be completing posters and designing a product of their own related to health. Our next unit will deal with alcohol, tobacco & other drugs.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHEETAHS (7TH GRADE)



CLASSROOM NEWS

Language Arts: Cheetah students have just begun a unit on persuasive writing and propaganda in language arts. As part of that, they will be studying a variety of media and its influence on their daily lives. As well, students will continue working on their ILPs and begin reading the novel *Forged by Fire*, enhancing their vocabulary skills by completing daily comprehension assessments.

Social Studies: Social studies classes have begun a unit on Ancient Greece. We are studying the beginnings of democracy, as well as other forms of government. With that, soon we will cover a section on Greek gods and goddesses. Students will be

assigned a particular god or goddess and produce a poster providing the details of the god or goddess; the assignment should be completed by the middle of February.

Math: In mathematics classes, Cheetahs are still studying integers. We should wrap up this unit by next week. Our next unit, entitled "Moving Straight Ahead," is focused on linear function and includes tables, graphs and equations. Within this unit students will learn to use graphing calculators, which are acceptable on the state and ACT tests at the high school level.

Parents, please remember to check with your child regarding what was learned in math class so that it may be reinforced at home.

Science: Cheetah students are currently studying ecology in science classes. We are learning about how "biotic" and "abiotic" features in an ecosystem work together. As part of that, students created fictional organisms that are involved in a symbiotic relationship. We are also using food webs and energy pyramids to show how energy moves through an ecosystem.

Parents, you can reinforce this instruction at home by asking your child to describe how humans are "connected" to our environment.

QUOTABLE SCIENCE QUOTE

"That is the essence of science: ask an impertinent question, and you are on your way to a pertinent answer.

—Jacob Bronowski (1908-1974)

MESSAGE FROM THE PANTHERS (8TH GRADE)



Happy New Year! Hopefully, Panther students had time to relax over the Holiday Break, because we are shifting learning into "high gear" for 2010.

CLASSROOM NEWS

Language Arts: Students will be working on poetry in Mr. Knecht's classes and finish reading the book *Copper Sun* with Ms. Brown.

Thanks to a Dater Foundation grant, the Cincinnati Opera will visit NMS on **February 3rd** to perform *OH Freedom!*, which chronicles the African-American struggle from the slavery era through the Civil Rights Movement.

Science: We are studying geology and, specifically, the geologic column and fossils. With that, we will be looking at our "environmental footprint," while gathering data about what we are doing that helps and what we could improve upon.

Social Studies: With the goal of helping to nurture an informed citizenry, Panther students will continue studying the U.S. Constitution over the next few weeks. As part of that instruction, students will learn about the Bill of Rights and their individual rights and responsibilities as citizens of our country.

Math: Students just finished a unit on the Pythagorean Theorem involving square roots and triangles. Pre-algebra students will begin studying exponential relationships and explore graphs and equations that represent those relationships. Algebra students have just begun learning about "inequalities," while graphing functions on number lines and coordinate grids.

QUOTABLE MATH QUOTE

"When you have mastered the numbers, you will in fact no longer be reading numbers, any more than you read words when reading a book. You will be reading meanings."

—Harold Gennen (1910-1997)

ART DEPARTMENT

Hello from the Art Room! The Art Club hosted a follow-up visit from the Cincinnati Contemporary Arts Center on **January 26th**. Our next visit to the CAC will be **March 8th**. Art Club students, if you plan on attending this fieldtrip, please make sure to fill out the proper paperwork in advance.

Regular-school-day art students will be studying different cultures in the upcoming weeks including Roman, Grecian, Egyptian and Chinese art!

And as always, donations of tissues or cleaning wipes are always appreciated in the art room. Thanks!!!

QUOTABLE ART QUOTE

"The function of art is to do more than tell it like it is—it's to imagine what is possible."

—Bell Hooks (1952-)



MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Welcome back, and we hope your New Year is off to a great start!

The NMS bands and Chorus Club are back to work on new music and practicing to upgrade our performance level. The Chorus Club is still open to anyone who loves to sing and would like to join us. Also, now in the planning stages, we hope to offer a voluntary "pep band" as an after school activity for students who play an instrument. The pep band would perform at NMS sporting events and other special occasions. See Mr. McCord for further details!

QUOTABLE MUSIC QUOTE

"Music, the greatest good that mortals know. And all of heaven we have below."

—Joseph Addison (1672-1719)



LIBRARY NEWS

To celebrate Valentine's Day, the library will be running a Valentine quatrain poetry contest. Students will be asked to submit entries using the standard rhyme schemes expressing holiday sentiments of a serious or humorous nature. Entries will be judged and posted for everyone's enjoyment.

Parents, please continue to send in Box-tops-4-Education and start adding Campbell's soup labels as well.

Monthly Scholastic catalogs are available in the library. Orders may be placed at the end of each month. Orders may also be placed through SharePoint on the Newport Middle School web page.



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