

# Arbutus Middle News

## INTERIM Quarter 4

*Happy May!*

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

#### **Math**

Standard math classes are thinking algebraically. We have applied properties and simplified expressions by combining like terms. The distributive property was very different from the rest but it's actually quite easy for most of us now. We are learning to recognize equivalent expressions and write our own. We use variables frequently and soon will be solving equations that have one variable and one operation in them. A lot of what we are doing now is pre-algebra in preparation for 7th grade.

Parents, if you are wondering how you can help keep your children fresh in math over the summer, have them review fractions, decimals, and basic multiplication and division facts. Many of the fraction concepts will be used in algebra. They have worked hard this year, and we want them to retain as much as possible.

#### **Science**

Sixth grade science students completed their space mission, and now are coming down to Earth. Volcanoes, tsunamis, and earthquakes, oh my! Will there be a super volcano in Maryland in the next 100 years? Students will work hard to discover the answer.

#### **Language Arts**

GT students will build on their knowledge of Shakespeare to learn about the man and the time period in which he lived. They will learn about the theater and how plays were staged in the Elizabethan Age. Ultimately students will create an argument about the relevance of Shakespeare today after identifying theme in his writings and analyzing the novel *THE SHAKESPEARE STEALER*.

Standard classes will be reading and discussing various short stories as well as the writings of Gary Paulsen in order to identify what changes occur as we grow that determine our individual pathways into adulthood and also to identify in what ways texts are influenced by the life experiences of authors.

#### **Reading Research**

Reading research students have been working on Unit 4: Making Artistic Connections: Connecting Ideas through Words and Pictures. During this unit, students analyzed non-print text in order to identify similarities and differences from traditional text forms. Students were exposed to many graphic novels from the Graphic Novel Revolve Series. While reading different graphic texts, students developed an understanding of how these texts are written and formatted. They developed reading strategies to help them better understand how to read and comprehend the graphic texts. Students have been using this new learning to determine the effectiveness of graphic artists' ability to communicate their ideas to the reader. Students will ultimately compose an analysis of their findings and share how effectively authors' retold their stories. Finally students will be able to retell a traditional story that they have read in the form of a graphic novel.

#### **World Cultures**

As we enter the fourth quarter, we will be beginning Unit 4. In this unit, we will examine the Roman Empire beginning as a republic, its expansion to empire, and finally its collapse. We will also look at the Dynastic Cycle/Mandate of Heaven in China, which explains how dynasties rise and fall. Upon completion of Unit 4, we will spend two class periods reviewing for our comprehensive final exam. This exam will be the largest grade of the fourth quarter, and will likely take place on May 30-31.



## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Team

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade End of the Year Field Trip: June 1<sup>st</sup>**

Permission slips for our field trip to Annapolis, MD on June 1<sup>st</sup> were sent home at the beginning of 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter. During the field trip, students will cruise the Annapolis Harbor on the Harbor Queen boat, tour Annapolis through a scavenger hunt, and enjoy lunch with their group and chaperone.

Cash or money order payment, along with the permission slip, is due by May 18<sup>th</sup>. We have a limit of 238 students and 38 parent/guardian chaperones. The field trip is first come, first served. Students must be eligible to participate in the field trip. The requirements are:

- Students cannot have more than 5 SIRs (during 4<sup>th</sup> quarter)
- Students cannot have more than 2 Referrals/Administrative Consequences
- Students cannot have books/damaged book payments due to the library or teachers
- Students must earn promotion onto 8<sup>th</sup> grade

The cost is \$18 for students and \$22 for parent/guardian chaperones. Interested parent/guardian chaperones must complete the volunteer training on the BCPS website, as well as send in their application and certificate.

[http://www.bcps.org/community/volunteer\\_info/](http://www.bcps.org/community/volunteer_info/)

### **GT Language Arts**

Students will learn about the Russian Revolution through the allegorical novel, *Animal Farm*. Types of government, types of protests, and sociological questions will be addressed throughout the unit.

Essential Questions include:

- How can an author use fiction to express his perspectives on the role of leadership in a society?
- How do two authors writing about the same topic shape their presentations of key information by emphasizing different evidence or advancing different interpretations of facts?
- How does an author use the setting of a story to develop the characters and the plot of the story?

The end of the unit PBA will focus on students creating their own allegorical literature to represent a current or historical event of their choice.

### **Standard Language Arts**

Students have finished reading a dramatic text, either *A Raisin in the Sun* or *The Miracle Worker*. To complete their county assessment, students will compare a scene from the dramatic text to a scene in a film version in order to explain how the director's choices contribute to meaning within the film.

Students will learn about fairytales, taking us through the culmination of Language Arts for the year. Students will write a "fractured fairytale" that tells a traditional fairytale from the perspective of a different character to alter the character archetypes that appear in the story. They will first reread a fairytale to analyze how an author develops and contrasts the points of view of different archetypal characters in a text. Then students will rewrite the story from the perspective of a different character to alter the character archetypes that appear in the story.

Essential Questions include:

- How does the setting of a story affect the characters' choices?
- How does an author develop and contrast the points of view of different characters in a text?
- How does altering the archetypal character telling the story change the reader's perception of that character?

### **World Cultures**

**Greetings from the past!** In World Cultures this quarter, we will continue to focus on History Making events! Our focus will be on the Rise of nation states in Europe, specifically England, Spain and France. Some of the specific things we will be examining are the Hundred Years War, the War of the Roses, and the Spanish Inquisition. We will then conclude the year by spending a couple days working on Financial Literacy. We hope you will enjoy this trip through the past with us!

## Algebra 1

Algebra 1 students will finish this year with Quadratic Translations and Regression Analysis. We will now be able to compare the correlation coefficient of multiple function families to decide which model best represents our collected data. Lastly, students will get to solve the daunted Quadratic Formula and prepare for our final exam.

## Pre-Algebra

There are 2 units left for Pre-Algebra students-Geometry & Measurement and Transformational Geometry. In the Geometry & Measurement unit, student will use formulas to calculate circumference, area, surface area and volume of objects. In the Transformational Geometry unit, students will use angle relationships in parallel lines to determine the measurement of unknown angles. They will also work with transformations, congruence, and similarity of given objects.

## Science

7th grade science is finishing out the year with our final unit- "Let is Entertain You." Student will learn about sound, light and other types of waves and they will even get to create their own instruments! We are looking forward to seeing their finished products! Thank you for all of your support of the various projects this year- the kids and teachers have not only really enjoyed them, but we have all learned a lot.



LAST DAYS  
of  
EIGHTH  
GRADE

### May Information from the Grade 8 Team

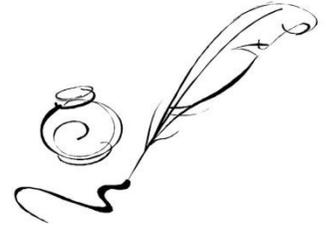
As our 8<sup>th</sup> graders wind down their middle school experience and prepare to enter high schools, teachers are finishing the remainder of their fourth quarter content so they can begin reviewing for end-of-year finals and exams. Eighth graders are also looking forward to some upcoming events as outlined below:

- Grade 8 Panoramic Class Picture – Wednesday, May 16. Order forms came home with the interims on Tuesday, May 8. Students will give payment to the photographer on the day of the picture.
- Grade 8 Harbor Lunch Cruise – Friday, June 1 from 11:15 – 2:00. Cost is \$49 for students and adult chaperones. The permission slip is on pink paper. **Permission slip and payment due by Friday, May 18.**
- Grade 8 Farewell Assembly – Tuesday, June 12 in the gym, starting at 8:30 am. Students will each receive 2 tickets on Tuesday, June 5. **Due to the number of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and the seating capacity in the gym, there are no extra tickets available.** We apologize for any inconvenience. There will be live video of the assembly in nearby classrooms to accommodate the overflow crowds.

We look forward to celebrating our 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their accomplishments as we come closer to the end of the school year!

## PATRIOT'S PEN ESSAY CONTEST

Conducted nationwide, this VFW-sponsored youth essay competition gives students an opportunity to write essays expressing their views on an annual patriotic theme. Over 1,200 essays were submitted from students in sixth, seventh, and eighth grade, and this year with voting coming from the VFW, AMS had a winner! Although many of the submitted essays were amazing, we would like to congratulate sixth grader Ruby McKerrow on winning third place along with the monetary award of one hundred dollars! Way to go, Ruby!



## BALTIMORE COUNTY HAIKU CONTEST WINNERS

俳句  
haiku

Baltimore County Public Schools offered a haiku contest for students in grades 6 – 12. This year's topic was "How Reading Makes You Feel," and 1,885 entries were received from throughout the whole county. The winning poems were chosen blindly, (name, age, nor school were known), and the judging was "fierce." We are proud of all who entered, but we would like to congratulate the following AMS winners who will receive small prizes as well as haiku books with their works published: De'Jae Erwin, Cameron Grays-Rodriguez, Evan Judd, Isabella Melton, Patrick O'Brien, Tosanmi Ogunbayo, and Emma Rausch! Keep up the good writing!



### End-of-Year Yearbook Information

Here is important information regarding the AMS yearbook:

- **Online sales will close at the end of the day on Friday, May 18!**
- **There will be one last in-school yearbook preorder sale during the week of May 21 through May 25 during all launch shifts. Cost is \$30.**
- Students who preordered yearbooks in **grades 7 and 8** will receive their yearbooks on **Monday, June 4 during homeroom**. Students who preordered yearbooks in **grade 6** will receive their yearbooks during their Field Day (date to be announced).
- **Yearbooks will be on sale during the week of June 11 through June 15 during homeroom in the front lobby. Students will purchase their yearbook on the spot and take it with them. Cost will be \$35, cash only.**

Thanks to everyone for your support of the AMS Yearbook!



# Music Department

Springtime is Performance Time in the AMS Music Department! We have a number of important performances coming up so please take a second and mark on your calendars all of the exciting opportunities your music students have coming up!

On May 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> AWE and Concert Orchestra will participate in the Maryland State Band and Orchestra Festival held at Bel Air High School, an honor these ensembles earned by receiving Superior ratings at the county festival in March and April. AWE must report to school at **6:30am** on Tuesday May 8<sup>th</sup> in uniform with money for lunch at Bob Evans. Honors Orchestra will return to AMS at **3:40pm** on Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> and students will need transportation home at this time.

Students participating in the Maryland State Solo and Ensemble Festival will receive the pertinent information soon. The strings festival is at Magothy/Severn Middle School in Anne Arundel County on May 12<sup>th</sup> and the band festival is at Towson University on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Our Spring Concerts will be on the following dates:

Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band, Orchestra, and Chorus

Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Band, Orchestra, and Chorus

Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> – AWE, Concert Orchestra, and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus

Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup> – Jazz Band, Chamber Orchestra, and Festival Choir

All concerts will start at 6:30 in the AMS Gymnasium with a report time of 6:00 for students. Please come out and support our students as they showcase what they have learned in class since August, we think you'll be impressed!

Our Music in the Parks competition is Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> in Hershey, PA! Students will soon be receiving a detailed itinerary of the schedule that day, including what time they need to report to AMS that morning, and what time they need to be picked up that evening. Please make sure that your child is paid in full as soon as possible as the music department has payment deadlines that must be met for us to go on this important and exciting trip! Also, if you would like to purchase extra "chaperone" tickets, you may do so at a cost of \$35 a piece ASAP.

Finally, information went home with your music student last week about Baltimore County's Summer Music Camp, held from June 20<sup>th</sup> to June 28<sup>th</sup> at Perry Hall High School. This day-time music camp allows your child to continue their musical learning and culminates in an outdoor concert at the scenic Oregon Ridge Park in Hunt Valley. Transportation to and from AMS to PHHS is included in your registration fee, and financial assistance is available on a first-come, first-serve basis for those families that qualify. Please see, sign, and return the information sent home with your child!

Please feel free to email your child's music teacher if you have questions or concerns about your child's progress in class, check out our Music Department website ([arbutusmiddleschoolmusic.wordpress.com](http://arbutusmiddleschoolmusic.wordpress.com)) for more information, like us on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter to receive the latest updates about the goings-on in the music department.

Music Makes a Difference,

Kelly Boyle

James Miskimon

Caitlin Blough