



# The Coakley Chronicle

## Message from the Principal



We are well into our academic year and the enthusiasm is building. We have students today cheering their peers as they participate in the Geography Bee. Students and faculty have joined together to read and share the

second book (Al Capone Does My Shirts) for the student/faculty book club. National History Day is in full swing and will be presented in January. Washington D.C. and Search trips are being planned. Sixth graders are fully into the middle school schedule. Our math team is gaining strength. So many exciting things are going on here.

Our staff is finishing rank book training and iParent will be open after the second term is completed. Parents will be able to access student grades and

check on their progress. Our staff is also training on ChromeBooks in order to fully utilize two classroom sets of ChromeBooks for our students.

Every day I see our students becoming more engaged and excited about learning. It is a pleasure to be surrounded by such great children. We have all worked hard and are ready for a break. I hope you all enjoy a safe and restful break from school and a wonderful holiday. See you next year!

Ann Mitchell

### Inside this issue:

Guidance Corner	1
Green Team News	2
Gold Team News	4
Blue Team News	7
Cross-Team News	10

## Guidance Corner



We have had a busy start to the school year and are happy to report that the 6<sup>th</sup> grade has made a smooth transition to the middle school. Beginning next month, we will be entering the 6<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms to deliver comprehensive guidance lessons focused mainly on peer conflict resolution skills. In conjunction, we offer small lunch groups to practice social skills and make new peer connections. If you would like to sign your child up for a lunch group, please reach out to their guidance counselor.

We have been actively working with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders to complete private school applications. We hate to see them go, but are excited that our students are exploring all of their options. Last week many of our 8<sup>th</sup> graders visited Blue Hills Regional Technical High to learn about the school and see if it is a good fit.

In other news, the Anti-Bullying Club (A.B.C.) was opened up to all students this year and we are happy to say that it is now the largest club in the school! The A.B.C. has already participated in many events this year. In September we took select members of the club to Norwood High School to introduce a presentation by Dr. Englander, a leading researcher on the anti-bullying campaign. In October The Coakley Middle School participated in national Mix-It-Up At Lunch Day, in which students were assigned random seats and encouraged to meet new friends. We also presented the Boston vs. Bullies curriculum to 30 of our 8<sup>th</sup> grade A.B.C. members in a train-the-trainer type forum. These students will be teaching what they learned to incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders in

the spring during Step-It-Up-Day. Some of our A.B.C. members presented our mission and goals to the school committee to raise awareness in the community. Lastly, we recently brought 35 students to an Anti-Bullying Rally in at the Worcester DCU Center. The students are reenergized and ready to continue with their Anti-Bullying efforts this year. We are looking forward to our students' continued success in 2014!

Ashley Sassano \* Kevin Hoffman \* Laura Mathews



## 6th Grade Green

In English, we have just completed our unit on the novel, Stargirl. Students did a wonderful job with their final projects, which focused on the themes of the novel such as individuality, practicing random acts of kindness, and being true to who you are. Students showed strong presentation skills, and their projects are posted throughout the 6<sup>th</sup> grade hallways. Please mark your calendars - grade 6 English MCAS dates are March 26 and 25. We look forward to seeing the students' reading and writing skills progress in term 2!

sink. We then shifted to Earth Science to explore the different features on Earth's surface looking at various landforms, 2-D and 3-D models of Earth, map reading for locations with longitude and latitude, and interpreting topographic maps to see slope relief and elevation of features to follow a treasure map.



look. Students also learned about the discovery of King Tutankhamen's tomb and discussed the need for seat belts on chariots (King Tut fell off his).

## 7th Grade Green



We began this year with General Science exploring the properties of materials. This included review of the Metric system of measurement (SI system), difference between mass and weight, and investigations with density between soda cans that either float or

In Math, we began term one with a review of the basic skills and concepts that were taught in grade 5. We then completed unit one of the Glencoe text book. Topics included whole numbers, algebra and statistics. Please mark your calendars - grade 6 Math MCAS dates are May 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

In Social Studies, we just finished digging our way through the ancient Egyptians. Students learned about how the pyramids were made (we don't really know) and discussed how gross mummies

7 Green got off to a good start in the 2013-2014 school year. Students are adapting well to the rigors of seventh grade.





## 7th Grade Green

The highlight of the team's experience in the first term was the team-building trip to the ropes course at the Franklin YMCA. There students worked together to accomplish several challenging interactive puzzles. Then students showed great support and encouragement of each other as they mounted the high ropes course to finish out the day. We're looking forward building on this experience throughout the year. Happy Holidays!

Mr Armour, Mrs Norris, Mr Oliver, and Ms Salvaggio



Ages. Excitement is building for the National History Day school-wide event in January.

In Math class with Mrs. Parlato, the big excitement was the team recipe contest. Top chef winners included Chris Fata, Carly Foye, Rachel Fagan, Delia Bartucca, Franki DeVingo, Nicolas Gudiel, Rachael McCracken, Katie Mulholland, Alyssa Naumann and Mia Phillips.

In English class, students spent term one reading and analyzing short stories by famous authors such as O. Henry and Edgar Allan



In Science class with Mrs. Bousquet, first term was spent learning all about Plate Tectonics, Earthquakes and Volcanoes. Students presented volcano projects, consisting of an erupting model and report, a poster or a PowerPoint presentation. We are now in the middle of our Chemistry unit, learning about Matter. In January, students will learn about the Periodic Table and chemical bonding.



## 8th Grade Green

In Social Studies with Mr. T. Martin, students chose topics and continue to work on National History Day projects. First term, students learned about the origins of our country and the Constitution, and then later transitioned to the history of the world in the Middle

Poe. Ms. Manning's classes then began reading The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien, complete with costumes, swords, and even a beard for Gandalf. Eight Green students are embracing Tolkien's Middle Earth and all its characters with enthusiasm and excitement as we eagerly wait for our field trip to see the film on February 11th.



## 6th Grade Gold

The Six Gold students started off the year in **social studies** discussing survival, Early Man and how civilizations were formed. We then traveled to Egypt where students learned the importance of its geography, their religion, as well as Egyptian contributions and achievements. In **science**, the 6 gold students learned how to measure the mass of an object using a triple beam balance, the volume of a liquid using a graduated cylinder, and the volume of an irregular solid using water displacement. They then went on to explore maps where they created their own birds' eye view of a mountain using Play-Doh. In **English**, we read the novel Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli while making many connections to our summer reading book Schooled which has similar themes. We completed a unit on



capitalization, and expanded our vocabulary with new words being introduced each week. Lastly, in **math**, we began term one with a review of the basic skills and concepts that were taught in grade 5. We then completed unit one of the Glencoe text book, which included topics such as whole numbers, algebra and statistics. Please mark your calendars - **grade 6 Math MCAS dates are May 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.**



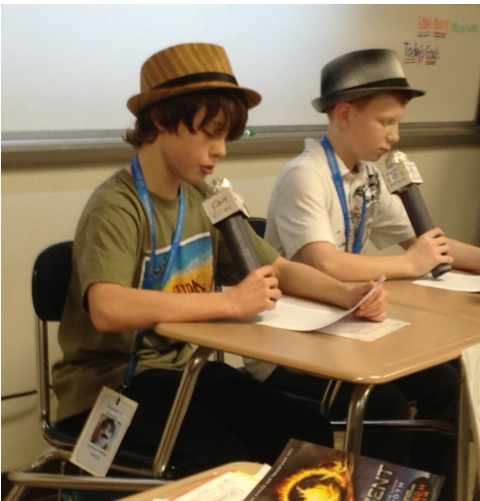
## 7th Grade Gold

In English class, Seven Gold students spent a majority of the first term as the first CMSers to read *Romeo and Juliet*. Despite the challenges Elizabethan language can pose, the students did a great job and really seemed to enjoy the story of those two "star-crossed lovers." They proved it with their 29-sentence summary project and presentations. Next, on to Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*! Students are reading the original novel and comparing it to excerpts of graphic novel, dramatic, and film adaptations of the tale. The most fun part of the unit, so far, may have been our incredible field trip to see a live production of *A Christmas Carol* at the North Shore Music Theater. The students were well-behaved, dressed to the nines, and fully engaged in (and scared by) the performance. They represented CMS with class and dignity. Just recently, students completed their "Holidays Around the World" greeting card project! This may be the best batch of cards yet! After vacation, we'll finish up the novel and head for a quick trip to Maple Street...



## 7th Grade Gold - Continued

In the 7 gold Math classes, the students successfully worked on applying integer operations. Each student created a Foldable in which they wrote an example and rule for each operation. The students also created a Top-Down Web of Regular Polygons which included the sum of the interior angles. In Geometry, designs of each student's name, a soccer ball and a house were drawn symmetrically. We are now moving on to operations and applications with Rational Numbers.



The Grade Seven Gold Geography classes have made great strides in term two of the 2013 ? 2014 school year. We have mastered our basic map skills with hard work and determination. Students were asked to create a cereal box project using the Five Themes of Geography to describe their assigned region of the United States. Also, we have been examining the basic cultural and physical features of the various regions of the United States so we may be able to better understand the differences of the people around the country. We are about to start our study of South America so students created Seven Gold Passports in order to visit and discuss the many countries of the region. We are looking for a great finish to term 2 and the rest of the school year.





## 8th Grade Gold

In **Science** this fall, the students learned about Plate Tectonics, Earthquakes, Rocks, and Volcanoes. We reinforced our content knowledge with fun activities such as the Edible Plate Tectonics Lab, Seismic Wave Slinky's and our impressive Volcano Projects. Next, we are entering the world of Physical Science where the students will be studying Matter, Atoms, Elements, and Chemical Bonds! - **Ms. Foye**



In our **Introduction to Algebra and Algebra 1** classes, we have been working with rational numbers to solve equations with fractions, decimals, and mixed numbers that are both positive and negative. Students are using algebra that is critical to many everyday activities, as well as the science and math classes of their future. Both classes have taken part in a Top Chef competition. Students have shared a favorite recipe and adjusted it for larger and smaller servings, practicing operations with rational numbers in the process. Finally each class presented an advertisement for their recipe to see who would be voted the Top Chef. The winning chefs are Craig Riley, Kennedy Sheehan, Jacob Logan, and Jonathan Burke. Please feel free to utilize these valuable culinary skills as you prepare your holiday feasts! - **Ms. Wilcox**

In **History**, the year started with a unit on the events leading to the American Revolution, the Declaration of Independence, the US Constitution and US government. After becoming more familiar with their own government, the students now have a basis for examining the challenges and governments of other civilizations. The World History curriculum began with the Byzantine Empire focusing on the accomplishments of Emperor Justinian as well as the Justinian Code, the Nika Revolt and the building of Justinian's magnificent Hagia Sophia. In November, the students gained a better understanding of the assassination of Pres. Kennedy as they watched and discussed *As it Happened: John F. Kennedy 50 Years*, hosted by Bob Schieffer. Additionally, students are busy preparing their National History Day projects which are centered around this year's NHD theme "Rights and Responsibilities in History". - **Mrs. King**



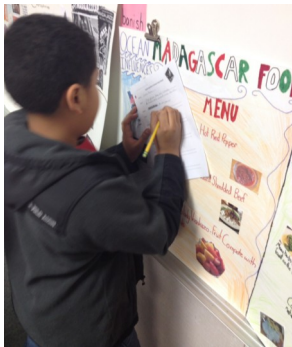
In **English**, students have been exploring Middle Earth as they read JRR Tolkien's classic fictional novel, The Hobbit. While focusing on elements of literature, the students are bringing the characters to life through the use of props, costumes and dramatic reenactments of the plot. In addition to the animated and dynamic discussion of characters, the students are also focusing on developing their writing through both literature based essays and reflective journals.

-**Ms. Mooney and Ms. Terray**



## 6th Grade Blue

In grade 6 English, we have just completed our unit on the novel, Stargirl. Students did a wonderful job with their finals projects which focused on the themes of the novel such as individuality, practicing random acts of kindness, and being true to who you are. Students showed strong presentation skills, and their projects are posted throughout the 6th grade hallways. Please mark your calendars; grade 6 English MCAS dates are March 26 and 25. We look forward to seeing the students reading and writing skills progress in term 2!



6 Blue Science - We have been moving right along this year with our science curriculum. So far the kids have studied measurement and the metric system, landforms, elevation, and relief, as well as mapping Earth's surface. They have learned that there are many different kinds of maps, and designed their own topographic map complete with mountains, basins, and a variety of other topographic features. Currently we are studying how the forces of weathering, erosion, and deposition have changed and are continuing to change the surface of the Earth.

In social studies we learned about the pyramids of ancient Egypt and why pharaohs stopped building them. We discussed topics that ranged from embalming your mummy to why King Tutankhamen ruled at the age of 10. Students also discussed the importance of the Nile River and the many "gifts" it gave to the Egyptians.

In term 2 the students on the 6th grade blue team have spent a lot of time on statistics, both new and old. Some of the new statistics the students have learned to find were; Interquartile Range (IQR), Lower Median Median (1Q), Upper Median (3Q) and Mean Absolute Deviation (MAD). They will continue to work on these throughout the year as well continue working on finding the Mean, Median, Mode and Range of a set of data and creating graphs to analyze the data. Some of the new graphs the students are learning to create are Dot Plots, Histograms and Box Plots (Box & Whisker).

The students also just completed one of their place value and decimals unit where they had to round decimals, find the word, standard and expanded form of the numbers, estimate sums and differences, compare and order decimals as well as add and subtract decimals. They will continue their work on decimals with multiplication and division after the holiday break.





## 7th Grade Blue

**Geography-** The First Term focused on learning about basic geographic features, elements of culture and environmental awareness. Once we had the basics behind us, we started learning our first culture- the Four Main Regions of the United States. We are currently in the midst of exploring South America and will start to discover Europe after the New Year. Students also participated in the class and team wide competing for the National Geography Bee.

**Science-** Students have concluded solar sciences and presented their planet projects. Some extremely creative projects were displayed and presented. Students are presently working on the Cells and Cellular Processes.

**English- English-** Students recently finished reading Romeo and Juliet. As we concluded the unit, students compared the written play to portions of two different film versions, and viewed *A West Side Story*. We started reading *A Christmas Carol*, by Charles Dickens, and saw a wonderful production of the play at the North Shore Music Theater.

**Math-** Students started the year reviewing the proper order of operations and solving word problems. During the lesson on converting metrics, the students had a competition on developing a phrase and poster to remember the relationships for metric units. As a class, we have moved toward solving problems involving all integer operations as well as equations. The students especially enjoyed using cards and number lines to review these topics.

## 8th Grade Blue

In science, we completed a unit on earthquakes, volcanoes, and rocks. The volcano projects were fantastic! We are now starting our study of matter and then atoms.

After starting the year learning about early American history in Social Studies, students studied the fall of Rome, the Byzantine Empire, and Christianity. Recently, we have looked at the origins of Islam and the essential elements of the religion. We are looking forward to seeing the students' projects for the National History Day competition next month!

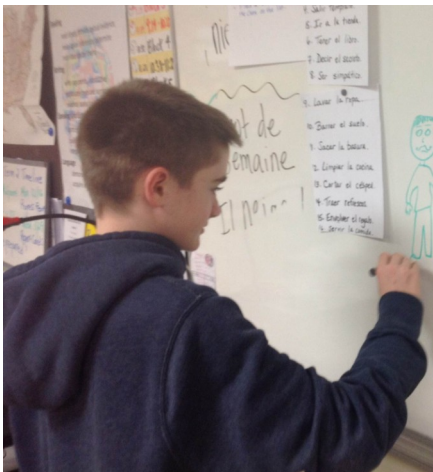




## 8th Grade Blue

Students in Ms. Clarke's Algebra 1 and Introduction to Algebra classes recently finished their recipe projects. Four students were awarded the "Top Chef" title due to their impressive and tantalizing recipe brochures. The winners were Tarek Zaki, Lauren Gregorio, Holly Coakley, and Jordan Matovu. Congratulations!

This semester in English we continue our trek across Middle Earth with Bilbo Baggins and the 13 dwarves. Students have been working hard on their Chapter Questions and Summary Response notes. These activities have encouraged students to revisit the text, assess character and plot development, and provide text evidence for the claims they make about the novel. Students have also been interacting with the text by using their post-its to identify figurative language and literary devices.



## Art Department

3-D Design club was a huge success this year. Mrs. Ribeiro had the club meet with her for the month of October. The students had a chance to work with ceramics and also plaster gauze. The club will start up again next school year and is open to all grade levels.

Artist Circle with Ms. Branson is off to a great start. Students are beginning a landscape printmaking project. They are learning to use unique methods and techniques such reduction block printing for this lesson.

Ms. Branson is after Tuesdays for art make-up this year for her students. Mrs. Ribeiro is after Wednesdays afterschool for her students. This is an opportunity for students who need to finish their class art assignments.

Are you interested in supporting Norwood's visual arts program? FoVA (Friends of the Visual Arts) is a parent/community group that meets once a month. Email Laurie Mead Mcgrory, visual arts chair, at [lmcgrory@norwood.k12.ma.us](mailto:lmcgrory@norwood.k12.ma.us) for more information.

## Wellness

Welcome to the world of wellness. Your wellness teachers are Mr. Dupuis and Mr. Nimblett. We are excited to embark on another

## Cross-Team

wellness journey. So far this year in Physical Education we have had our initial Fitness Gram testing to set a bench mark for each student to achieve. We also added a golf unit which included golf and disc golf, where students practiced their golf swings as well as design a disc golf course right on the fields here at the Coakley. We also had our coveted cooperative games unit where students work together to build teamwork and accomplish different challenges. Some of the elements include human ladder, alligator pit, all aboard, balance board, human pipeline, cup stacking and walking skis. In Health class we focused on bullying and cyber bullying to develop strategies to stand up to bullying. We also have been focusing on nutrition and proper eating habits. Every term we give out our High Five Awards for excellent achievement and participation in wellness. Congratulations to these past term award winners: Nathan Brown, Marion Donovan, Allison McDonough, Dagney Overbay, Nick Wu, and Alex Yuen.



## Band/Orchestra

Overall, the past few months has been extremely exciting to be a part of in the instrumental music world at the CMS. The band/orchestra students have been developing their musical skills and rehearsing expertly in order to perform some exciting music for their Winter Concerts. The concerts went off without a hitch, and all the musicians performed with enthusiasm and character! I'm looking forward to seeing what the kids bring to the table in the new year.



## Chorus

The young musicians in the Choral Program have already had a busy start to the year. Honor Chorus performed at the Norwood Tree Lighting on December 1<sup>st</sup> and over 400 singers had successful performances in our Winter Concerts on December 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations are also in order for the seven students who were chosen to sing in the Southeast Junior District's Festival Mixed Chorus: Tyler Ellis, Will Goffredo, Alison Harkins, Keri McCarthy, Katie Mullholland, Chris Sheehan, and Allison Silletti. These students will perform with other singers from around Massachusetts at the Junior District Festival in March.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Choral Collage, *Of Thee I Sing*, will take place on Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at Norwood High School. The concert starts at 7pm and features over 300 singers in grades 6-12 performing a variety of music centered on the theme of America. Tickets are \$5 and all are welcome.

## Mrs. Bernritter & Mr. O'Connor

**8th grade:** In Mrs. Bernritter's class, students are beginning their door alarm project, which will culminate their communication systems unit. They will work on their final unit: transportation systems where they will be learning about different modes of transportation, as well as the forces that impact vehicles in transportation systems. Students will also have an opportunity to build and race magnetic levitation vehicles.

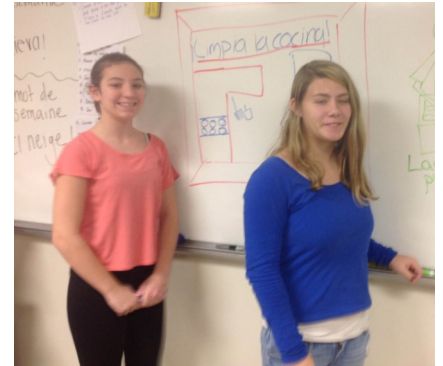
## Cross-Team

In Mr. O'Connor's class, the students will learn how products are manufactured, specifically focusing on assembly line production and interchangeable parts. Students will also have the opportunity to build gumball machines where they will use tools and machines to manufacture their product.

**7th grade:** Over the past several weeks, Mrs. Bernritter's students have researched and learned about many different aspects of medical and agricultural biotechnology. Mr. O'Connor's students have been working on a construction unit specifically focused on the different types of bridges and the forces that impact them.

**6th grade:** As the middle of the second trimester approaches; our sixth grade technology/engineering students are hard at work. In Mrs. Bernritter's class, students are currently engaged in the Introduction to Technology curriculum. In Mr. O'Connor's class, students are learning about tools, materials and machines through hands-on

projects such as building wooden tops, and design/build/test projects such as catapults and boats.



## Foreign Language

The FL students are gaining momentum in their studies. They are practicing their Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking Skills through activities in their classrooms and in the Language Lab. Eighth graders are looking forward to the National Spanish and French Exams coming up in March. The whole school is looking forward to Foreign Language Week this year!



## Wicked Local story:

About 20 Coakley Middle School students and teachers gathered in the school library on Monday afternoon for the first meeting of the student and staff book club.

"I'm very happy with the turnout," said reading specialist Diane Lockwood. "It's great for the kids to see that teachers are reading and talking about a book. The teachers aren't here as teachers, but as readers to talk about a good book."



The club spent the last few weeks reading "Out of My Mind" by Sharon Draper. "Out of My Mind" tells the tale of an 11-year-old girl named Melody who has cerebral palsy. Dismissed by her students as nothing more than mentally challenged, she learns to communicate with a special keyboard and joins the school's quiz team, but faces a number of challenges along the way.

"It was very interesting. It was about a girl who was brilliant, but couldn't speak her mind," sixth grader Danessy Auguste said at

the book club meeting on Nov. 18. "I can't imagine myself in her shoes."

Librarian Maura McGill selected the book for the club to read. Additional copies were acquired through Morrill Memorial Library and the Minuteman Library Network, with assistance from outreach librarian Nancy Ling.

"It is an easy read, it is a quick read, but it touches upon so much," reading specialist Donna MacTavish said. "It touches on kids with disabilities, the bullying issue, love and what kids go through as adolescents these days. It's a great book for discussion."

About 24 students and staff participated in the book club. There were split into small groups to discuss the novel.

Sixth grader Lauren Benjamin said this was a fun way to discuss the book. All participants could speak up and share their thoughts.

"It lets you hear different points of view. You can hear what other people thought of the book and it lets you say what you thought," Benjamin said.



After the meeting of the book club, several students recommended the book.

"I would recommend it. Anyone who reads it will have a lot to think about," seventh grader Celia Hazerjian said. "It has parts that are really funny, parts that make you think and parts that might make you cry. The part I cried at the most was when (Melody's) sister was hit by a car. It was a really powerful story."

Coakley Principal Ann Mitchell was one of the staff members to join students in reading "Out of My Mind." She said the book provides students with a valuable lesson and provides insight into school life.

