

Mrs. Kerrissey's 8th Grade Humanities:

Happy fall! We have begun our narrative essay writing unit and I am so impressed by students' ability to use figurative language, imagery, and descriptive language in their stories. We will continue working on story elements and the writing process for the next few weeks. Please ask your child to share their progress with you!

We are continuing with our Current Event Mondays so students should complete their article and turn it in by Friday. Because the election is so close, we are learning about the different political parties and views that the candidates hold. We will be having our own debate and election in class! In Social Studies, students have been learning about American colonization and the effects it had on diverse populations through the analysis of historical questions and primary documents. Students are practicing making historical claims backed by documentary evidence and are learning to read like historians!

Student-Parent-Teacher Conferences

I will be scheduling student-involved conferences over the next few weeks so please sign up for a time that best suits your schedule and do not forget to bring your child along! Sign-up sheets and details will be sent home soon.

Conferences will take place November 9th and 10th. I look forward to meeting with you!

Homework

Students will be given an informational Article of the Week each Monday related to our weekly current events in which they are required to show evidence of close reading and write reflections based on textual evidence. There is also a short quiz that is attached to the article. This will be due every Friday.

Students are also required to read at least one novel outside of the classroom each month. They will record their novel information on their reading log (signed by the teacher) and write summaries related to their book. This will be due at the end of every month.

Students may also have homework from time to time depending on whether they finished their daily assignments in class. Please check their planners for more information on classroom assignments and homework. Each student is expected to record this information in their planners on a daily basis.

As always, please never hesitate to contact me with additional questions or concerns. Helping your child find academic success is my most important goal. GO BULLDOGS!

Carissa Kerrissey

Mrs. Madison's 8th Grade Humanities:

Fabulous Faubion Families.

Do you know why the great Roman Empire collapsed? Seventh grade students know the answer to that question! We've spent the last two weeks digging into secondary documents to look at seven causes of the fall



and why, like the famous saying goes, "All Good Things Must Come to an End." In preparation for the essay, we spent class periods on writing techniques for introductions, conclusions and the body paragraphs.

Coming up next week we will begin taking a look at the elections. Over the course of the next four weeks students will explore who the major candidates are locally and nationally, whether or not we should believe everything we read or hear, what the constitution says about voting, and what issues are key to this year's election. The lessons are from the Classroom Law Project, These resources are designed to help students understand democracy.

Finally, we will be investigating text features. We will tackle questions about how authors of textbooks, articles, and novels design their writing to attract readers, give them clues about content, expand knowledge through illustrations and much more.



Sincerely,

Phyllis Madison

Ms. Ackron's 7th & 8th Grade Mathematics:

Things are officially in full swing here at Faubion for your wonderful mathematicians! It's hard to believe it's already getting colder and the rain is here. Time sure does fly! We've been having a great time exploring and learning so far this year. Each day, I'm so impressed by the inquisitive and curious minds with which I get to spend time. It has been a blast! Our 8th graders are finishing up a unit on proportional thinking and linear equations and will be moving on to examining the importance of intersecting lines on a plane. 7th grade is deep in a geometry unit exploring angle and shape relationships.

Now that your student's notebook is starting to be filled, please be sure to encourage them to look it over for 5-10 minutes each night. This will help with memory retention and recall from day to day. Students always have a weekly homework assignment to add a little extra practice outside of the classroom. Be sure to ask to see your student's planners to have a conversation about what they're learning in each class throughout the day! Please don't hesitate to call or email at anytime. I love hearing from you! Looking forward to seeing all of you at conferences in the beginning of November! Go Bulldogs!

Michelle Ackron





Faubion Middle School Bulletin

Edition #2
October 14th, 2016



We are a Community for

Safe – Responsible – Respectful & Professional Students

Upcoming Dates of Interest:

Wednesday, October 19th	2 Hour Late Opening – Breakfast will be served	10:30am
Thursday, October 20th	Shake Out Drill	Any time
Thursday, October 20th	PTA Auction Meeting	
Friday, October 21st	3 to PhD w/Director Lee	9:00-10:00am
Friday, October 28th	Koffee Klatch @ 8:45-9:45am & PTA Dollar Days	All Day
Monday, October 31st	Dress as your Favorite Book Character Day	All Day

Middle School Contact Information:

Phone: (503) 916-5686

- 6th Grade Self Contained, Melanie Lieu mlieu@pps.net
- 6th Grade Self Contained, Nekicia Luckett nluckett@pps.net
- 7th Grade Humanities, Phyllis Madison pmadison@pps.net
- 8th Grade Humanities, Carissa Kerrissey ckerrissey@pps.net
- Middle School Science, Melanie Ramsey mramsey@pps.net
- Middle School Math, Michelle Akron mackron@pps.net
- Special Education, Matt Walker mwalker@pps.net
- Middle School P.E., Brian Fennema bfennema@pps.net
- Middle School Art, Mark Gunderson mgunderson@pps.net
- Middle School Chinese, Yuan Jun yunxiaojun2011@gmail.com
- Middle School Band/Choir, Kathryn Giffert kgiffert@pps.net
- Maker Space Instructor, Mara McGreevy mmcgreevy@pps.net
- Chess for Success Coach, Josiah Malone lilsmoove27@yahoo.com
- Academic Advisor, Nik Merrick nmerrick@pps.net
- Student Management, Rory Thompson rthompso@pps.net

Middle School Special Course Offerings:

- * Band * Math in Real Life * Choir *
- * Health * Chess * Poetry *
- * Library * Faubion News * Art *
- * Weekly Incentive & 2nd Chance Time *
- * P.E. * Creative Writing *
- * Survival Geography * Social Justice *
- * Launchpad Tutoring *
- * Mandarin Chinese * Maker Space *

Portland Public Schools recognizes the diversity and worth of all individuals and groups and their roles in society. It is the policy of the Portland Public Schools Board of Education that there will be no discrimination or harassment of individuals or groups on the grounds of age, color, creed, disability, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation in any educational programs, activities or employment.

District Title VI & Title IX Contact: Greg Wolleck, HS Regional Administrator (503-916-3963)
 District 504 Contact: Tammy Jackson, Director, Student Services (503-916-5460)
 American Disabilities Act Contact: Human Resources (503-916-3544)

Ms. Ramsey's 7th & 8th Grade Science:

(8th grade) Weather & Atmosphere unit of study: The weather forecast for the last half of October will near normal with the temperature range of 55-57 degrees Fahrenheit, partially cloudy with the chance of precipitation 55%-60% for the remainder of October 2016. The students will be investigating local weather and its history, the effects of weather on people and the environment such as wind storms, waves and the rare occurrence of tornadoes on the coast. We will attempt to answer "How does the ocean temperature affect climate and weather? Global Warming? The effects of pollution on the Water Cycle and severe weather such as hurricanes, typhoons, and tornadoes. Students will have the opportunity to build a weather station and forecast weather. Since weather affects people's plans and activities, we will discuss careers related to the science of weather or meteorology. We will also examine maps that show the relative level of risk of different weather disasters and discuss the likelihood of those weather events occurring locally and nationally.

(7th grade) Erosion, Weathering unit of study: These students are just beginning to study the effects and causes of erosion on farming, construction, and waterways. The main issues are related to the positive and negative impacts of construction on society and the land. The students will have the opportunity to give input on choosing which undeveloped area (e.g.) hillsides, marshland, and cliff-top areas would be the optimal site for building in the town of 'Boomtown.' We will gather observations and evidence related to topography (elevation & land shape), local weather, erosion studies and the amount of weathering occurring in these areas. Eventually, the students will write a Geologist's Report on their recommendation for the new construction location. We're making it as real as possible, just like here in Portland when geological & engineering recommendations are made to the city.

Advanced Science class is currently focusing on forensics. We are currently focusing on forensic anthropology in which we study bones, hair & fiber, and facial recognition by reconstructing the skull and writing a report as to what injuries occurred. We are the Faubion Forensic Unit! And we will solve other mysteries and crimes this month when we analyze handwriting and blood spatter. Stay tuned for more information!

Sincerely,

Ms. Ramsey



Mr. Gunderson's Middle School Art:

Middle School Art is off and running for the year, we've had a crazy start with everyone figuring out their schedules and getting to the daily routine. 7th and 8th graders just finished their first project working with Hand Lettering and quotes; they explored a variety of font styles and applied that to a favorite quote or song lyric of their choosing. 6th graders just finished up their abstract name designs where they painted their names in large block or bubble letters and black paint, and then cut up into small pieces and rearranged into a different design that look very abstract and crazy.

Both 6th grade classes and Middle School Art are starting a project for Dia de los Muertos where we are learning about the culture, vocabulary, and artists of the Latin American holiday. Students will be creating their own calavera (skeleton) drawing of someone famous who has passed away, as a way to celebrate and honor that person. These are one of my favorite projects and often one of the students' as well and are very entertaining to see them all up together when they are complete.

Sincerely,

Mark Gunderson



Mr. Merrick – Academic Advisor:

Hello Faubion Community Members, What a fantastic beginning of the year it has been! Everywhere I look, I see students working hard, teachers teaching and administrators leading. Smiles and happiness are abound in our community as we work together to ensure success for every student.

As I roam the classrooms, I'm happy to report that students are using their planners! In their planners, they write either their homework or the learning objective in that particular class (if there was no homework assigned). Please take time to look at your child's planner, discuss what they've written there, and sign your name when you finish. This ensures your child is getting their work done and you understand what they are learning each day.

Sincerely,

Nik Merrick



Ms. Lieu's 6th Grade Class:

Greetings from Room 221!

We've had a busy few weeks. We have been working hard on a creative writing project based on what we know about the mesolithic era. We've been exploring how climate, geography, and proximity to other humans shapes our culture. In science, we have been tracking our daily weather, comparing it to our local climate, and exploring how different factors affect climate as a whole. We are gearing up for a project on catastrophic weather preparedness. In math, we have just started working on ratios and fractions and math in the real world. We have been emphasizing our communicating our problem solving strategies. We have started adding to our online portfolio, and are working on what it means to be a responsible digital citizen.

Ms. Lieu

Ms. McGreevy's Maker Space

Hello, Faubion Families!

This is Ms. M from MakerSpace. MakerSpace is a place where students learn how to use tools, technology, and crafts to problem-solve and design their own solutions to curriculum-based challenges or real-life problems. We let them explore, try, and try again. We have everything here from mountains of cardboard and tape, to 3D printers and a laser cutter, all of which our students will learn to use! The first month was all about safety and exploring some of the technology they will be using. We worked with Spheros--the robot that Star Wars used to make BB-8, Makey Makey computer boards, Little Bits circuits, and Bee Bots--bumble bee bots that teach the concept of sequence coding for computers. Looking to give your student some extra practice at home in coding and 3D design? You can sign them up for free accounts at www.scratch.mit.edu, or at www.tinkercad.com. Both are very easy to use and completely free. Moving forward, we will connect what we do in MakerSpace to the things students are learning in their classrooms. I can't wait to share our first projects. Look out for those coming soon! \

Go Bulldogs!

Mr. Fennema's Physical Education Class

A very warm welcome back from the Physical Education department! I wanted to take some time at the beginning of the year to introduce myself to those of you that may be new or didn't get a chance to meet me last year. My name is Brian Fennema and I am the PE teacher at Faubion. Last year was my first year here at Faubion and I am excited to continue working with all of the students again. This year in PE we will continue to work on the fundamentals of sports (Basketball, Volleyball, Badminton, etc.) as well as working on skill development.

So far this year we have been working on traditional gameplay in hopes of getting all of the students familiar with what I call "Go to games." Go to games are different cooperative and competitive games that are easy to explain and execute without using too much physical activity time to describe the games. We will continue to play go to games through October and into November.

This year I will be teaming up with Concordia's Exercise and Sports Science department for the second year in a row in order to perform the Fitnessgram fitness testing in November and again in March or April. Middle School students will be tested in numerous different areas; we will be calculating aerobic capacity, muscular endurance and strength, flexibility and measure student's body composition. For those of you that are unfamiliar with the Fitnessgram it is a fitness assessment and reporting program for youth, first developed in 1982 by The Cooper Institute in response to the need for a comprehensive set of assessment procedures in physical education programs.

If you ever have any questions, comments or concerns about anything within the Physical Education program here at Faubion, please don't hesitate to contact me.

GO BULLDOGS!

