



# MONARCH MESSENGER

## Bunsold Middle School Newsletter

March/April 2012

### Are You Smarter Than a 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> Grader?

We will be administering the Ohio Achievement Assessments on May 1, 2 and 3. Below are some sample questions from the test. Take them and see how smart you are!

#### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science

Two galaxies are interacting with each other. What is the force that draws these two galaxies toward each other?

- Friction
- Gravity
- Electricity
- Magnetism

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

Simplify:  $-21 - (-5) + (-2)^3$

- 34
- 24
- 22
- 18

Check with your son or daughter if you do not know the answer! Students have been preparing diligently for our upcoming testing week. Our 8th grade students will be tested in Reading, Math, Science and 7<sup>th</sup> graders will take tests in Reading, and Math. These tests are a vital part of our district's state accountability measures and you can help in the following ways:

Please make sure your child is present and on time to school on these days. Do not schedule any appointments during the school day if at all possible.

Make sure that your child gets a good night's sleep and a nutritious breakfast during test days. As much as possible with middle school students, have a stress free morning prior to sending your son or daughter to school.

Talk with your child about the importance of the state assessments and let them know you have confidence in his or her abilities.

Contact your child's team of teachers or guidance counselor for more information regarding the Ohio Achievement Assessments.

## Important Dates

Spring Break for all Marysville Schools is April 2-April 6. Classes resume Monday, April 9. The middle school office will be closed during spring break.

Student Led Conferences will be held March 22 from 4:00-7:30. You will receive specific information regarding conferences from your child's teachers in the near future.

Grade cards will be sent home on March 30.



## Enough sleep?

Many 10- to 15-year-olds find it hard to get to sleep at night. Research isn't definitive yet as to why, but it seems to have a lot to do with the changing hormones in a young adolescent's body. It isn't that they aren't tired; it's just that they can't shut down their minds. They lie awake and worry, review unpleasant conversations, imagine "I'll show them" scenarios, listen to songs over and over in their heads, and toss and turn.

Some kids this age like to sleep with the radio on, with their earphones on, or in a room with something that makes "white noise" like a fan or humidifier or air conditioning unit. They use these devices to help shut out the noise in their heads so that they can get to sleep.

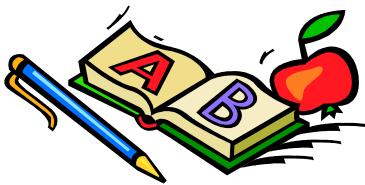
Others simply stay up. They read, watch TV, play games on their computers and-parents and guardians beware-talk on the phone, e-mail their friends, or surf the Internet.

While understanding that it takes a while to get sleepy, a good rule is no phone or computer after, say, 9:30 or 10:00 p.m. Communicating with friends or searching the Internet does not make kids drowsy or help them get to sleep. Instead, they stimulate the already-overloaded mind and make sleep even harder to come by.

No matter what time a child falls asleep, each must answer the morning wake up call for school. This is particularly painful after a short night. If your child has trouble falling asleep at night, let them know that this is normal for the age, so they don't add sleeplessness to their list of worries. Work with your child to find out what actually makes them sleepy (Hot shower? Warm milk? Being read to? Soft music playing?), and try to accommodate.

Like other traits of this age, this "insomnia" will pass and kids will survive. You can be sympathetic with their plight, but be careful not to make unnecessary allowances (going late to school, for instance, or late-night chats with friends). Sleep gets easier as young people age; then parents and guardians might also manage a bit of rest.





## Bunsold Middle School Summer School Classes: 2012

This summer, BMS will be offering a variety of remedial and enrichment classes. All classes will be taught by BMS staff members. Here are examples of classes that were offered last summer:

1. Music Enrichment class:
2. Math Enrichment class:
3. Math Intervention class:
4. Science Enrichment class:
5. Language arts Intervention/ Remedial:
6. Video Editing Enrichment class:
7. Social Studies Enrichment class:

**\*Class size – maximum of 15 (12 for the video class)**

Summer school courses can be remedial or enrichment classes that would give students the opportunity to review and practice basic academic skills that were not mastered during the school year, OR, allow students to learn some new skills in the enrichment classes that will be offered this summer.

Cost: \$125.00 per class

Hours: 8-10 or 10-12 (am) \*at teacher discretion

Where: Bunsold Middle School

When: July 30-August 10, '12 (Ten total sessions)

Who: Any incoming 7<sup>th</sup> grade student - current 8<sup>th</sup> grader

Registration for middle school summer courses begins **May 7<sup>th</sup>** and ends **July 20<sup>th</sup>**. Classes with insufficient enrollment by **July 20<sup>th</sup>** will be cancelled and tuition money will be refunded. Transportation to and from summer school is the responsibility of the students and parent. Tuition payment, in full, must be made no later than the last day of registration (July 20<sup>th</sup>). Payment must be made in the BMS South or North offices. Office hours are 7-3. Application/Information forms will be ready by May 1<sup>st</sup> and can be picked up in both BMS offices, or, can be viewed and printed from the Marysville Schools Web site (Go to BMS site from the main school web site):

[www.marysville.k12.oh.us](http://www.marysville.k12.oh.us)

If you have any questions, please contact, 7th grade counselor Chris Hoehn, at 642-1721.  
**(I will post classes being offered this summer on our website by March 22<sup>nd</sup>).**

Chris Hoehn  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor  
Summer School Coordinator  
Bunsold Middle School

## Student Council News:



We held our annual Dodge Ball tournament on Feb. 15th. Twenty teams participated. All proceeds will be going to the Honor Flight.

The following BMS students were on the winning dodge ball team ( Dominic Scranton; Duncan Driscoll; Haley Jaggers; Lindsey Sullivan; Wyatt Burge & Alec Sandusky)

In February, we held our annual Winter Dance. Proceeds from the dance will be donated to the BMS Relay for Life Team.

Student council recently sold Valentine Candy Grams during lunches. These were delivered to close to 800 students. Proceeds (over \$200) will be sent to the United Way of Union County/The Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

\*As you can see, the students have been involved in quite a few nice community service projects.

Upcoming projects: Food collection competition with proceeds going to the local food pantry before Easter (Week of March 26-30). We also will continue to collect Box Tops.

## Guidance:

The end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> nine weeks is March 22<sup>nd</sup>. 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter grade cards go out to students on Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.

Student's 2nd trimester Unified Arts grades will be posted on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter grade cards.

## High School Credit:

Attention Parents! Credit Flexibility provides students with the opportunity to test out of some high school courses. Students must apply through the high school guidance department. Application deadlines are August 15<sup>th</sup> for October and January testing dates and December 3<sup>rd</sup> for March and May testing dates.

To successfully earn credit, mastery of content and certain abilities and skills must be demonstrated through a formal examination, a culminating project, and/or a presentation. Fees may be assessed for some courses. For further information, please contact the high school guidance department.



## ***Healthier Lifestyles...***

### **Creating healthy lifestyles can be for the entire family.**

A recent study shows that childhood obesity in the U.S. is now an epidemic. It states that 1 in 10 children are at risk for obesity and 1 in 5 are overweight. Because of obesity these children are set up for diseases later in life. These would include Diabetes, Heart Disease, High Blood Pressure and Arthritis.



By exercising a person's risk for disease can be lowered. April 23<sup>rd</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> was "TV Turn-Off Week" this was set up to promote healthier lifestyles through exercise and diet. "TV Turn-Off Week" began in 2001 by the US Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher.

Because of families and such busy schedules there seems to never be enough time, but by limiting TV, children are not influenced by all the ads for junk foods like chips, candy and sugary cereals. It will also give you extra time as a family to get outside and play, take a walk or enjoy your favorite family sport. Studies show that children watch 3 hours of TV daily and adults watch 4 hours.

### **Tips to get unglued from the Tube...**

- Turn the TV off at meal times
- Take the TV out of bedrooms
- Make one day a week TV-free...have a game night
- Exercise instead of watching TV
- Enjoy outside activities with family & friends
- Set limits for children's TV viewing

Make an extra effort to watch less TV, eat healthier and exercise more. Children are influenced by what they see their parents do. In the end you have more family time and you're on your way to improving your health.

***Stay Healthy!***

# UNIFIED ARTS AT BMS

## Career Consumer Science



**"It costs how much?"** This is an often heard comment during the budgeting unit in Career Consumer Science. It is both an informative and fun project for students and a great way to finish the trimester!

All eighth grade Career Consumer Science students figure out pretty quickly that budgeting for a family isn't easy. For a cumulative project, students are assigned a family scenario for which they must plan. This includes figuring out just how much money they have to work with after taxes. Once students have a grasp on how much their monthly income is, they begin looking for housing and transportation that fits their family. Students will also be required to budget for utilities, food, entertainment, children's activities, both car and housing insurance. Some scenario's have additional expenses such as credit card payments and student loans, or childcare expenses.

For most students this is quite an eye opener and we start to hear; "Now I know what my parents are talking about!" And then there are those expenses that just come up that we must plan for. Do you have enough in savings to pay for the unexpected vet bill, or the money for the rising cost of gas and groceries?

As much as the project is a great opportunity to see how a family budget is made, students really enjoy looking for that perfect car and home and practicing taking on some adult responsibilities. Trying to research what's out there, and how much is it, and can I really afford it? It is just one of the first steps into becoming a responsible and financially literate adult.

## Family & Consumer Science



In FCS, students learn the importance of Character/Integrity. We discuss the 6 pillars of character; Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Caring, Citizenship, and Fairness. As a class we discuss the importance of these characteristics, and why people should have them and live by them. We discuss what ethical principles are and how to be a role model. Students create a "character balloon" where they give examples of each pillar that they already possess. These balloons are then displayed in the classroom so the students can remember how to have good character. We talk about being a citizen, different responsibilities people have, and values. During this unit, the students drive most of the discussions, and create their own examples of character, what each pillar should look like, and define what their values are.

# **ART**

## **Mr. Ritchie's Classes**

The Winter Trimester is done, and the spring Trimester just began in Mr. Ritchie's Art room. Students have been working extremely hard on all projects, and everyone is showing great improvement on drawing skills.



All 7<sup>th</sup> grade Art classes finished their clay units. Seventh graders are constructing a pinch and coil pot. On the outer surface area of their clay pot, students are tasked with sculpting some sort of monster or alien face. Mr. Ritchie showed all classes a PowerPoint slide show on the "monster" art throughout history. Medieval gargoyles were placed on many buildings throughout Europe, lions were sculpted in entrance ways in ancient Persia, and the jackal became a popular theme in ancient Egypt. In modern times, middle school students are familiar with many monsters and aliens such as characters from movies like *Monsters Inc*, *Robots*, *Monsters vs. Aliens*, *Transformers*, *Megamind*, and *Star Wars*. Students brainstormed ideas with practice sketches, and are now working on their sculptures.

Eighth graders have also finished their clay projects as well in Mr. Ritchie's classes. These students are using the clay sculpting technique called slab construction to create their pieces. Students will be building a geometric structure with a base, walls, and possibly a lid. These students must meet the objectives of selecting a theme for their sculpture, and decorating it with that selected theme. Students have selected themes like sports, TV shows, cartoons, technology, music, and other personal interests. All students finished practice sketches of their slab construction, have finished their masterpieces, and are currently on display in the BMS Library for all to see.

And rounding off the end of the Trimester in the last two weeks the 7<sup>th</sup> graders completed a crayon etching of ocean ecology scene, and all 8<sup>th</sup> graders finished painting circular Mandala paintings. Many of these pieces of Art, along with many others from the entire school year, are being collected to go on display for the 2012 BMS Art Show coming this May. This will coincide with Awards Night, so many students, parents, and family members will be able to see the amazing talent of the young artists here in Marysville.

Art Club is still be offered to any interested students at BMS. We will meet every Tuesday after school until 4:00 pm. Art Club is an exploratory time for students to create any art work on their own. Mr. Ritchie and/or Mr. Andrews will be on hand to lend expertise on ideas for creating top notch, high level artwork. If you have any questions at all please feel free to contact Mr. Ritchie at [jbritchi@marysville.k12.oh.us](mailto:jbritchi@marysville.k12.oh.us).

## **Mr. Andrews' Classes**

The seventh and eighth grade students in Mr. Andrews's art classes have recently finished with the second trimester. After recently completing their ceramic sculpture projects student have begun drawing exercises utilizing the Right side of their brain, by drawing from observation.

Utilizing concepts of positive and negative space students begin by drawing portraits of one another in blind contour drawings, which lead into the drawing of a still life skeleton. The seventh grade students completed a shaded drawing of the skeleton whereas the eighth grade students completed a negative space drawing. Students will be shaded and stippled their drawings with pencil and permanent markers.



Once these projects were finished students then began the graffiti and perspective units. The student artwork will be on display in the hallways, and we look forward to discover the talents of our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade artists.

Any student who is interested in enrichment in the Visual Arts is encouraged to join Art Club at any time throughout the year; Art Club meets every Tuesday after school until 4:00.

## **CHOIR**

The BMS Choral Excellence Concert is this Monday, March 12 at 7pm in the MHS Auditorium. The concert will feature 7th grade choir, 8th grade choir and Mini Swingers.

All students need to be in the MHS Auditorium at 6:30pm. 8th graders will meet ON STAGE and warm up, and then the 7th graders will get set for their show on stage once the 8th graders are finished warming up. The concert will be finished by 8pm.



## **Computer Technology**

At BMS, all students participate in a 12 week Computer Technology and Applications class in both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The curriculum for both grade levels is based upon the National Educational Technology Standards and Performance Indicators for students (NETS) developed by the International Society for Technology Education (ISTE). If you would like more information about ISTE and the standards and performance indicators for students you may visit [www.iste.org](http://www.iste.org).

Using those NETS, we have formulated 4 essential questions that guide all of our activities and projects. Let's take a look at the third essential question:

How can I use digital tools to solve problems, think critically, and manage projects? By the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade, students are becoming very adept at using the Internet to find information. They are also fairly proficient in the basics of Microsoft Word and PowerPoint. But the computer can be used for so much more. We want the students to begin to think of the computer as an invaluable tool, not just a convenience or a toy. This essential question covers items such as:

- Using MS Word to take electronic "notes" while doing research
- Bookmarking important websites for future use
- Using an electronic calendar to chart progress on a major project
- Using MS Excel to organize and analyze data to help solve problems and answer questions
- Displaying data from an Excel spreadsheet in a column, line, or pie chart
- Using MS Access to answer questions and solve problems
- Integrating concepts and tools from computer class into the core curriculum classes



In the next newsletter, we will elaborate upon the fourth and final of our essential questions: How can I use digital tools to produce high quality and creative products that effectively communicate my ideas?

## Physical Education



The Ohio Department of Education has developed a tool for evaluating student performance in physical education. The Ohio Physical Education Assessments consist of twelve items or benchmarks that will be evaluated at different points throughout grades K-12. Next school year students at Bunsold will be participating in these evaluations in both the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The scores from the evaluations will be tallied with all other scores in the district. A rating will then appear on the District Report Card.

## Health



The new Trimester began on Friday March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The students in 7<sup>th</sup> grade are studying the effects of Tobacco/Smoking, and on March 21<sup>st</sup> we will host our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Kick Butts Day for Tobacco Free Kids. We will have speakers; the Mayor will visit, and all 7<sup>th</sup> grade Tobacco projects will be on display.

Beauty's on the Inside continues the first Tuesday of each month that we have school. The next Beauty's Day is April 10<sup>th</sup>. This is a self-esteem day for all 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls to wear their pink shirt, no make-up and just be who they are.

# BMS Library News

## BMS Book Fair – Love to Read!



The theme of this winter's Scholastic Book Fair was "Love to Read" and the students of BMS certainly proved that they do indeed love to read! With the proceeds from our recent book fair, the library was able to purchase 115 new books.

### President's Award for Exceptional Performance, Grand Event

Remember our Veteran's Day breakfast and ceremony from the fall and what a great day that was? At the same time, the BMS Library held its first book fair of the year and tied the book fair theme into our Veteran's Day activities. For all of our efforts, the student crew of the book fair won the President's Award for our book fair theme: "Our Military Heroes." The award was \$500 Scholastic dollars to apply to new books for the library. Congratulations, everyone!

For the fall 2011 book fair, we sold \$2195 in books which translated into about 164 books. The proceeds provided around \$1000 in Scholastic Dollars which were used to purchase approximately 125 books for the Bunsold Library.

Book fairs are fun, but they're also a lot of hard work. Thanks to the following students who helped out: Carmen Ahrms, Brooke Gindlesberger, Kaylyn Burns, Carissa Cooper, Tim Jasper, Camren Main, Aleah Smith, Marissa Davis, Joseph Gruenwald, Mackenzie Spencer and Jordan Pivic. Also helping out were five adults/parents/staff who volunteered, including our own Mrs. Sharp. Special thanks go to Mrs. Robynn Jasper for all her hours of hard work, great creativity, and awesome organizational skills.

Thanks to everyone who attended the book fairs this year!



Miss Poff



# MONARCH MESSENGER TEAM NEWS

  
In **language arts**, students just finished writing their business letters to businesses asking for donations for the Union County Personal Needs Pantry. Now we are focusing on short stories and different writing assignments. We are really focusing on sharpening their skills. We will continue doing comprehension activities and extended response answers.

As the winter weather is passing by and the soon to come spring temperatures bring on the hopes of the beautiful summer weather we are finishing up our last few units in **math** class. We will be working with functions, systems of equations, probability, and statistics. We are also creeping closer to the OAA test. There are some practice tests online that you can work through with your child to help prepare them. Follow the following link to the school web site and go to the success website.

<http://www.marysville.k12.oh.us/bunsold/>  
Thanks to parents and students for all of their wonderful help at the Harold Lewis carnival! Once again, I am so pleased with our students' commitment to making a difference in our community with such a dedication to community service. Team 7-1 has some great and hard-working kids!! We will be working on a team community service project by partnering with the Columbus Zoo's Partners in Conservation group to help the people of Rwanda and endangered mountain gorillas. Ask your child about this project. Currently in **social studies**, we are finishing our study of Islam. We will move on to a study of the Crusades, then on to Ancient Africa and Asia with a focus on economic issues and cultural contributions

Do you think Global Warming is occurring? The students of Team 7-1 had a lot to say about the topic! The students recently concluded their unit on cycles, global warming & the greenhouse effect, pollution and groundwater. The next unit on the

agenda will include photosynthesis & symbiotic relationships. Team 7-1 also had many students compete in the **science** fair. Those receiving a rating of Excellent were Alexis Beach, Sydney Shapiro, Zack Spate, Ashley Segner, Nick Bellomo, Katie Foster, Jacob Read, Collin Putney and Ryan Hobbs. Mackenzie Wolford received a rating of Good. Amber Voegele achieved a Superior for our team and will be advancing to the District Science Fair. Congratulations science fair participants!



In **language arts**, students finished writing their business letters. They did a great job! Now, they are just waiting to see what kind of a response they get. Currently, the students are reading a variety of short stories. By reading these short stories, students will sharpen their comprehension, analyzing, and evaluating skills. The students' next writing assignment will be a creative writing piece. We will focus on grammar and writing well organized stories. March and April will also be used to prepare for the OAA. We will review frequently asked questions and work on fine tuning the students' extended responses. The Reading Ohio Achievement Assessment will be on Tuesday, May 1. The students have been working very diligently, and I am confident they will do well on the assessment.

In **math**, we just wrapped up the study of triangles and similar figures. Students are now exploring how to find the surface area and volume of prisms and cylinders. In the next unit, we will learn how to graph linear equations.

In **pre-algebra** students are exploring how to find the surface area and volume of cylinders, prisms, pyramids, cones, and spheres. In the next unit, we will learn how to graph linear equations, inequalities and quadratic equations.

Reminder... homework, which is an extension of the day's lesson, is given every



## MONARCH MESSENGER TEAM NEWS

day, with the exception of checkpoint quiz and test days

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter in **social studies**, students have learned about the Byzantine Empire and Constantinople. Students made a brochure encouraging people to move to Constantinople by giving facts about the area's geography, government, religion, and daily life. Now, we are learning about the religion of Islam. Students will soon be able to compare and contrast the three religions that were involved in the Crusades:

Christianity, Judaism and Islam. Finally, students will explore the causes and effects of the Crusades and the impact these holy wars have had on our world today.

The students' 3<sup>rd</sup> 9 weeks Community Service project is due Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. Thank you in advance for helping your students with their projects!

In **science** we are a week into our unit on food chains and biotic resources. The students in my class have designed food webs to illustrate the connections between producers, consumers and decomposers. There have been discussions about how different living things use the same type of biotic or abiotic resource. For example the plant breathes carbon dioxide but the animals use oxygen out of the same air.

Science fair was big success. My team had many participants with both good and excellent scores. Good Job everyone, I am proud of the hard work that came during time outside of class. The class will be moving into topics related to the impact we have on our environment and how these change the normal course of events set by nature.



As March begins, the students in Mrs. Sommerfield's **language arts** classes have been creating business letters to send to a company of their choosing. These will be requesting donations to be given to the Personal Needs Pantry, and we will be

looking forward to seeing the results. Later in March we will be reading plays aloud in class, followed by selections of science fiction. In April, along with weekly IRT's and bi-weekly SUV units, we will begin a journal booklet to write in each week.

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> 9 weeks Team 7-3 **social studies** students learned about the Middle Ages, feudalism, and the decline of feudalism. One activity students thoroughly enjoyed was making their own "Coat of Arms". We then moved on to learning about the Byzantine Empire and Constantinople. Students completed brochures that included Constantinople's geography, government, religion, and daily life. Next, we will learn about the religions of Islam, Christianity, and Judaism.

Students will soon be able to compare and contrast the three different religions.

Finally, students will explore the causes and effects of the Crusades.

The students 3<sup>rd</sup> 9 weeks project is due Tuesday, March 20th. Thank you in advance for helping your students with their projects!

If you have any questions or concerns feel free to email me at

[kdschnei@marysville.k12.oh.us](mailto:kdschnei@marysville.k12.oh.us).

Mrs. Tucker's **math and Pre-Algebra** classes recently completed a unit of study on solids. Students identified the name of given solids as well as the number of faces, edges, and vertices. Students were able to find surface area and volume of solids in order to solve real world applications such as how much aluminum would be needed to make a soda can of given dimensions or which container was the best deal for popcorn based on volume per dollar. Graphing linear equations and inequalities as well as a study of probability are to follow. Students discussed the probability of a certain basketball team making it all the way in the NCAA tournament during March madness. There were so many factors to consider and



## MONARCH MESSENGER TEAM NEWS

Cinderella teams prove that life doesn't always follow what the stats say! Finally, students are working on test taking skills and review for the upcoming Ohio Achievement Assessment in early May. It has been a year filled with discovery in mathematics! Thanks for all of your support during my medical leave this year. It's wonderful to be back in the classroom!



Third quarter in **language arts** class, we finished our prejudice novels. Book groups studied literature terms and practiced their chosen reading techniques over the novels Under the Blood Red Sun, Island on Bird Street, and Watsons Go To Birmingham. We finished the unit with a creative book project and an ice cream social for projects voted the best! Our writing project we are doing this quarter is our business letter. Since one of our language arts indicators is to "write a business letter to give a request, compliment, or complaint," we chose to help our community by making a request to local businesses to help us with our "Personal Needs Pantry" donation drive. We will be collecting monetary and item donations from these businesses, students, and staff through April 10<sup>th</sup>!

In **science**, students just completed the Earth and Space Indicator Test. This unit focused on the biogeochemical cycles, specifically water, nitrogen and carbon cycles. Students also learned about pollution and its effects on the environment as well as the availability of freshwater and its impact on agriculture and industry. We were pleased to have Kaylee Port from Union Water and Soil Conservation District as a guest speaker. Students enjoyed her groundwater simulator and Enviroscope presentations.

Our next unit will focus on the Life Science indicators. The Energy On Earth Unit was

introduced with a couple of activities that demonstrated the importance of photosynthesis. We will also be discussing the transfer of energy within an ecosystem and classifying resources as either biotic or abiotic. An activity emphasizing the impact of natural occurrences and human activities on the environment will also be completed. The unit will end with organism relationships such as predator-prey, mutualism, commensalism, and parasitism. In fact, students will be creating "Wanted Posters" for the relationships which will be displayed in the classroom. Our team really came up with some interesting "Similar Creatures".

In **math**, students were using scale factors to create shapes of similar proportion. The shapes were combined to create some really fascinating things. My goal was to deepen their understanding of ratios as well as improve their proportional. Some students went as far as to write a creative story about their "similar creature."

We're finishing up our exploration of angles and triangles, and now we're off to 3-dimensional figures. It is a visual learner's paradise. Three dimensional analysis can be tricky for the non-visual learners since a lot of the work is diagramed into pictures of cubes, prisms, etc. Many students are still developing the "eye" for examining at objects from three different perspectives. The grading period is over March 22<sup>nd</sup> so be on top of changing grades as we get them out there. Next, Spring Break is edging closer and so is the Ohio Achievement Test. Feel free to go to the Ohio Dept. of Ed. Website @ <http://ohio3-8.success-ode-state-oh-us.info/> You can have your child take an example test of 7<sup>th</sup> grade material so you'll both have an idea of what to expect in May. It has been a great year, thanks so much for all the support you give.



# MONARCH MESSENGER TEAM NEWS



Mr. Cunningham's **Language Arts** classes are now working with their third nine weeks unit *We Shall Overcome: American Struggles and Dreams*. Stories and themes in this unit center on different individuals and groups overcoming various obstacles to obtain a better life. Students will study a pictorial reading selection based on various immigrant groups that settled here in the United States. Public speaking is also a part of this unit, and students will listen and evaluate several different speakers and speeches from history, movies, and various parts of literature. Students will also be giving speeches, with several different focuses. Students will give an informational speech, give several impromptu speeches, and have to memorize a famous speech and recite it. Lastly, students will be focusing on persuasive writing this third nine weeks, taking a stance on a subject and using their supportive details to support their argument.

In **American History** class, we will round out our 2011-2012 year with a look at how the United States expanded westward and sectionalism increased, resulting in a Civil War. In the between years, the first presidents will be addressed as well as the country's continued march toward including more and more of its citizens in the political process. Please continue to encourage students to redo assignments they are disappointed with. The end goal is for them to prove they understand, and sometimes they don't succeed in their first attempt. I look forward to the rest of the year!

In **Algebra**, students have just finished a word problem unit. After the word problem unit, the course will skip to different chapters in the textbook for the remainder of the school year. This shift will allow for students to focus on material that reviews and expands the 8<sup>th</sup> grade math standards they learned last year in Pre-Algebra. This will help students better prepare for the Ohio

Achievement Assessment that they will take in early May. Chapter 13 will focus on probability and data analysis. This includes using permutation and combinations, analyzing surveys and samples, measures of central tendency and interpreting different types of graphs. After chapter 13, students will learn about the distance, midpoint and slope formulas in chapter 11.

In **Pre-Algebra**, students have just finished unit 10. The geometric theme started in unit 9, continued in unit 10 with the study of polygons. Students classified polygons by sides and angles as well as found angle measures using properties of polygons. The study of similar figures was also a part of unit 10. Students are currently studying perimeter, area, surface area and volume formulas, and classifying three dimensional shapes in unit 12. Next students will study data analysis and probability in units 13 and 14.

In addition to the traditional lessons in math, students in both classes will currently be working on Study Island lessons. Study Island is an internet site that helps students practice math skills they have learned. This additional review will provide students with additional practice on concepts they are learning and may have forgotten. This program will help to better prepare them for the Ohio 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics Achievement Test they will take in the spring.

In **science**, students on Team 8-1 have been learning about the Sun-Earth-Moon system and moon phases. We are wrapping up Astronomy unit I and will move into other objects in space, stars and galaxies next week. Four students from our team recently participated in Science fair and we do have one student advancing to the districts held in March.



# MONARCH MESSENGER TEAM NEWS



In **language arts**, the weeks before spring break, team 8-2 students will be busy completing our “We Shall Overcome” unit. This unit has allowed students to explore what it means to be an American and how some minority groups have had to overcome struggles to prove their loyalty and love for our country. At the beginning of March, students completed their 3<sup>rd</sup> nine weeks writing assessment that required them to assume the identity of a minority immigrant and write persuasively about coming to this country. We will also complete the third quarter reading assessment that focuses on utilizing non-fiction reading strategies and skills. Finally students will complete their third speech, delivering persuasive presentations that might match their persuasive writings from earlier in the month.

After spring break we will turn to a completely different genre: science fiction. Though many students balk at science fiction’s dry and technical reputation, I will show them how to love and question the themes presented. We will read many stories from Ray Bradbury and will contemplate the changes in the world that will happen in your student’s lifetime and beyond.

**Ms. Litzels’ intervention students** celebrated Dr. Seuss’s birthday with my intern from Hi-Point/MHS’s Teacher Professions Academy, Katy Dibble. She and I brought in Dr. Seuss books that each student got to read silently and then they told us about their books. Once done sharing, Katy filled out Read Across America Dr. Seuss certificates for each student for them to take home. It was a great way to start our Friday after a week of all giving GREAT efforts.

In **social studies** students have explored the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Through

lessons, mock government activities and projects students have a clearer understanding of the United States government and the rights and responsibilities of citizens.

Presidents Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison and Monroe played a critical role in establishing a stronger federal government, provided peaceful transitions of power and repelled a foreign invasion. Students will study these president and their specific contributions to the development of the United States through writing informational research essays.

Upon completion of the unit on Early Presidents and presentation of their essays students will learn about the westward expansion of the United States. Students will explore economic and industrial development, debates over sectionalism, environmental impacts of expansion, the war with Mexico and displacement of American Indians.

In **Pre-Algebra** we are working on Geometry. We continue to work our way through our state mandated curriculum. We have just completed the metric system and customary units of measure. We are working on area, surface area and volume of 3-D figures. This chapter can be very challenging for students as they both involve multiple step problems.

In Algebra we have just completed a unit on Probability. We have started to skip around a little in our book. This is to insure that we have covered all the 8<sup>th</sup> grade math indicators that are part of our algebra series before we take the OAA test in April. We will now work on parabola’s and their graphs. In **Geometry** we are working on the properties of three dimensional objects that include prisms, pyramids, spheres and cones.

In **science**, students are finishing up learning about how the sun, earth, and moon interact. They should be able to tell you all about the different phases of the moon and discuss



## MONARCH MESSENGER TEAM NEWS

why we have four different seasons. They tried something new: leading their own learning. Each student did a great job being responsible for themselves! Next, we will continue to explore space as we move on to asteroids, meteors, galaxies, and stars.



**Language arts** students have spent the third quarter studying eras of America's history primarily through nonfiction reading. At this point students have learned about immigrants coming to America via Ellis Island, the experience of Japanese-Americans in internment camps, and will eventually read about migrant workers. The unit will culminate with a letter writing assignment, in which students will take a persona of someone from one of the eras and write about what life would have been like. All students recently memorized a part of a speech and recited them to the class. All of them took great pride with this assignment and did a superb job! Students have also worked very hard learning new vocabulary from our weekly units. The words are showing up in conversation and in their writing; it is very exciting to see them learn and grow by knowing the new words.

**American History** Students have been applying the recently learned Constitution unit to Rights and Responsibilities of U.S. Citizenship. Following this detailed study of the most important document defining our country, students will learn about the first Presidency and the issues facing our new leaders. Next, the class will move through the next set of Presidents and key events of history including Louisiana Purchase; Lewis and Clark; War of 1812; Era of Good Feeling; Political parties; Manifest Destiny; and the overall growth of our country from 1800- 1860.

Students will begin to see that with the growing of our country comes "growing pains" in the form of Sectionalism, Treatment of Native Americans, Slavery

compromises between northern and southern states and conflicts between the U.S. and other countries over lands out west. We call this unit the "Westward Expansion" of the United States.

In **Pre-Algebra** students have just finished up their large unit on Algebra and we are moving into the geometry world of lines, angles and 2 and 3 dimensional shapes. Students are currently finishing up with lines and angles and moving into perimeter, area, volume, and surface area. In **Algebra**, students have finished their large unit on algebra and graphing. Students can look forward to probability, data analysis, exponents, and factoring.

In **science**, students started the month of February learning about the electromagnetic spectrum and the tools used to record or utilize the different forms of EMS wave energy. Each class period created their own ten foot long EMS mural with images showing the equipment and the uses associated with each wavelength. We then took a closer look at space probes, satellites and telescopes to see how their design and function helps us collect and understand data about space. We ended the Astronomy I unit learning how gravity and motion play a role in the cycles of the Earth/Moon/Sun. March will be a month of looking into the universe to learn about measuring distances in space and utilizing research to understanding the origins and movement of asteroids, comets, meteors, stars and galaxies. Astronomy II unit will be concluded prior to spring break.

When we return to school on April 9th, students will be starting a three week cumulative review of general science as we prepare for OAA Science test scheduled for May 3. We will be reviewing all areas of scientific studies, including life, physical, earth, space, technology and scientific inquiry skills.



# MONARCH MESSENGER TEAM NEWS



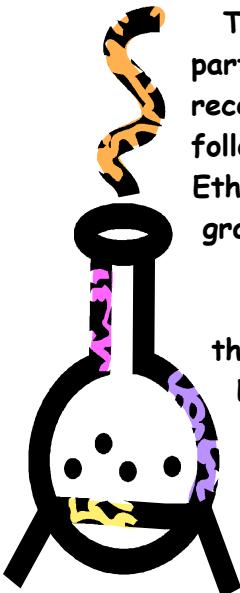
Mrs. Grose's **language arts**' classes began third quarter by dissecting video clips of both weak and powerful speeches. The video speeches culminated with Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream." The students analyzed King's legendary oratorical skills. Then, students worked on delivering their own speeches. Students first recited the BMS Mission Statement. Informational speeches and lengthy recitation speeches followed. The students did exceptionally well with their recitation speeches. Many students displayed a flair for public speaking. Currently, students are finishing up the "We Shall Overcome" unit which focuses on pivotal moments on the Civil Rights Movement timeline. To better understand the immigrant experience, students will research and "step into" the arduous immigration journey. In addition, students will continue to read, analyze, and construct creative pieces, improve reading skills, and explore vocabulary.

Mrs. Danals **social studies** classes completed their Constitution group projects. The students did an excellent job working collaboratively and

producing quality work. We moved on to study the Bill of Rights and are currently learning about the early presidents. We will begin another collaborative project as we begin our unit on Westward expansion in the near future. In **Pre-Algebra** we have been working with a variety of math concepts. Students have studied parabolas, 2 and 3 dimensional solids, angles and shapes, and similar figures. Students are applying their knowledge to solve real life application problems on a daily basis. As we transition into May, we will begin our study of topics such as probability, combinations, permutations, and systems of equations. Graphing calculators and technology will be utilized throughout these units.

In **Algebra** we recently finished our unit on the quadratic equation and learned how to solve by either graphing the equation or by using the quadratic formula. As we move through the fourth nine weeks, we will begin by studying systems of equations and move on to multiplying and factoring polynomials. Students are routinely applying their knowledge to solve real world math problems. Graphing calculators and technology will be utilized throughout these units.

## BMS SCIENCE FAIR RESULTS



The BMS Science Department would like to congratulate all 45 students who participated in the BMS Science Fair. 6 students received ratings of "Good", 31 received ratings of "Excellent", and 8 received ratings of "Superior". The following students received superior ratings: 7<sup>th</sup> graders include Evan Etherington, Dylan Hall, Steven Shamhart, Will Staats, and Amber Voegele. 8<sup>th</sup> graders include Morgan Kessler, Shruti Parashar, and Annie Wheeler.

The following students were also recognized for having the best projects of the Science Fair: Morgan Kessler, Shruti Parashar, Steven Shamhart, and Evan Etherington. These students will be receiving gift cards for their outstanding achievement!

Students receiving superiors are eligible to advance to the District competition which will be held at OSU-Marion on March 17<sup>th</sup>.

All Science Fair participants will be receiving an awesome t-shirt for their efforts!