



# MONARCH MESSENGER

## Bunsold Middle School Newsletter

April 2013

### OAA Testing Week April 29-May 3



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.

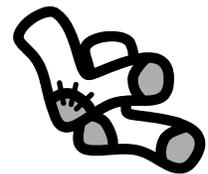
Make sure that your child gets a good night's sleep and a nutritious breakfast during test days. As much as possible with middle school students, have a stress free morning prior to sending your son or daughter to school.

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.

### **Homelessness Socks!**

Homelessness Socks! is a project to collect new socks and underwear for the homeless. These items are not typically donated and are really needed by those that are homeless. The most needed items are cotton socks, tube socks, and underwear for men and women in many sizes. We will be collecting these items from Monday, April 22 through Friday April 26<sup>th</sup>.





## What Makes Young Adolescents Tick?--A Primer for Parents

Youth between the ages of 10 and 15 are the most maligned and misunderstood age group in the U.S. Often referred to by derogatory terms such as "range of the strange" and "hormones with feet," this period of early adolescence is simply not well known. This lack of understanding plays out in many areas—schools that are ill-equipped to handle their diversity of needs and characteristics and parents who often take a hands-off approach at the very time their young adolescents need more adult guidance.

During early adolescence, kids move through puberty at varying rates and times. Yet, as a group, they reflect important characteristics that have a major effect on their relationships with parents, educators, and others who care for them. Here are several critical physical and intellectual characteristics of young adolescents. In the next issue of *The Family Connection*, we will share characteristics of moral, psychological, and social-emotional development.

In the area of physical development, young adolescents

- Experience rapid, irregular physical growth.
- Need daily physical exercise because of increased energy, and if not actively engaged in regular physical activity, often lack fitness, with poor levels of endurance, strength, and flexibility.
- Are concerned with bodily changes that accompany sexual maturation and changes resulting in an increase in nose size, protruding ears, long arms, and awkward posture, concerns magnified because of comparison with peers.

In the area of intellectual development, young adolescents

- Increasingly are able to think abstractly, not only concretely; both concrete and abstract thinking styles may be in evidence in the same young adolescent, depending on the issue or situation.
- Are intensely curious and have a wide range of intellectual pursuits, although few are—or need to be— sustained.
- Are inquisitive about adults and are keen observers of them, depending on their cultural upbringing; some young adolescents also may often challenge adults' authority.

From *This We Believe: Successful Schools for Young Adolescents* (2003), "Characteristics of Young Adolescents," by Dr. Peter Scales, available from Association of Middle Level Educators, [www.amle.org](http://www.amle.org)

## INFORMATION ABOUT MARYSVILLE SCHOOLS MAY 7 BALLOT ISSUE

We have been receiving questions from parents and community members about what's at stake for our schools on May 7. In response, the district has created a page on our website that provides information about this important ballot issue for our schools – a zero tax increase renewal levy. Included on that page are answers to the most frequently asked questions. For more information, go to [www.marysville.k12.oh.us](http://www.marysville.k12.oh.us).



## THERE'S STILL TIME TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN THE MAY 7 ELECTION.

Voting is an important civic opportunity within our democratic process. As people move into and within the Marysville Schools remembering to register to vote is often a last minute detail.

If you are not registered to vote and would like to vote in the May 7, 2013, election, simply visit any Marysville schools building to pick up a form. Completed forms can be returned to any school building or mailed into the Union County Board of Elections, 940 London Ave, Suite 1000 Marysville, Ohio 43040.

Have you moved? Need to update your address? The Ohio Secretary of State has now made it easier than ever to update your records. Visit <https://olvr.sos.state.oh.us/ovru/Modify.aspx> to update your voting address online.

Please don't wait -voter registration ends April 8. If you have any questions about the voter registration process, please contact the Union County Board of Elections at (937) 642-2836.

## ANY REGISTERED VOTER CAN VOTE ABSENTEE

Did you know anyone who wants to vote by mail can? With our busy schedules, finding time to vote can sometimes be an issue. Many people remember the ease of voting absentee in November and voters still have that option for May - you just need to pick up and fill out an application. Voting early helps ensure that your vote counts on Election Day. You can vote from the comfort of your home and according to your schedule.

If you need more information or assistance, forms are available in the office for pick up. We are more than happy to help. To obtain an application on line, visit the district website at [www.marysville.k12.oh.us](http://www.marysville.k12.oh.us). *Please note: If you do not want to declare a party affiliation during this election, simply request an "Issues Only" ballot.*

## Message from our superintendent:

### *Marysville School Community:*

The Board of Education has placed a renewal levy on the ballot for May 7th. The renewal levy is for two existing levies for a continuing period of time. These renewal levies generate \$6.8 million dollars in operating revenue for the school district and are imperative to continue our current operations. As a renewal levy, there is ZERO increase in taxes.

On Thursday, February 21st, I presented a contingency plan to the Board of Education that highlights the district's financial status from 2008 to present. The plan also clearly articulates the reductions necessary prior to the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year if the levy fails.

I strongly encourage you to look through the presentation, if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me at [dmmankin@marysville.k12.oh.us](mailto:dmmankin@marysville.k12.oh.us) or at 937-644-8105.

If you would like more information about the levy, feel free to check out the website at [www.supportmarysvilleschools.com](http://www.supportmarysvilleschools.com)

Regards,  
Diane Mankins  
Superintendent  
Marysville Exempted Village Schools

### *What is the May Ballot Issue?*

- Renewal of TWO existing taxes, totaling 9 mills for a continuing period
- Funds used for operating expenses of the school district
- Funds do not generate additional revenue for the district; they do allow us to maintain current collection of \$6.8 million, including over \$600,000 in TPP taxes
- **ZERO** increase in taxes

If the renewal levy placed on the May ballot does not pass, the following Contingency Plan would take effect for the 2013-2014 school year. The recommendation would be to reduce services and staffing by \$3 million.

### *Proposed Reductions:*

Central Office– Save \$1,120,65

- 1 fiscal officer
- 1 board office secretary

District Wide– Save \$740,867

- Close all buildings at 5pm (except for SACC)
- 2 Maintenance staff
- 1 Maintenance secretary
- 6.5 Custodians

- 7 Library Aides (leaving 1 Librarian district wide)

Service Reductions:

- Reductions in elementary, intermediate, middle and high schools supplemental contracts
- All Pay to Participate Fees will be doubled.
- District will pay up to 120 miles round trip only for extra curricular transportation

Supplemental Reductions– Save \$476,377

- Most clubs, sports and extra curricular activities would be eliminated unless they became cost neutral, including the CIS play and student council

Elementary Schools– Save \$474,244

- 3 Guidance Counselors
- 1 Art Teacher
- 2.5 Office Aides
- 1 Music Teacher
- 1 Physical Education Teacher

Intermediate School– Save \$267,309

- Eliminate Teaming Structure
- Increase class size to 30+
- Traditional High School type schedule introduced
- Eliminate intervention and enrichment opportunities
- Eliminate technology courses
- Reduce .5 office aide
- Reduce .5 Physical Education teacher
- Reduce .5 Music (No 6th grade band offered)

### *Contingency Plan Summary:*

- Reduction of 46.5 more staff members
- Reduction of 75 supplemental contracts
- Beyond cuts that occurred in November 2012, total reductions are estimated at an additional \$3,075,937.

### *The Reality:*

- If the renewal levy does not pass in May, the contingency plan will go into effect beginning August of 2013.
- If the renewal levy does not pass by November of 2013, an additional 4+ million will need to be reduced before the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year.
- The district will never recover the state dollars (TPP tax) if the levies are not renewed in 2013.

Complete details of the multiple reductions planned for the Middle School and High School are available by visiting the levy website listed below.

If you are interested in being part of the School Levy Committee, please visit them on the web at [supportmarysvilleschools.com](http://supportmarysvilleschools.com)



## "No Charge" Policy

There is a district wide "no charge" policy in effect May 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Students who come to school without their lunch money or packed lunch will be instructed to call home to make other arrangements.

Any outstanding charges made after May 1<sup>st</sup> of each year must be cash, money order or EZ Pay.



Remember to pay your child's school fees, which are \$46.

## Clinic Update...

This time of year the clinic is very busy, as we continue to see many complaints of stomach, headache, multi-cold symptoms and minor injuries. The clinic also



organizes & runs The Pennies for Patients Campaign which provides cancer education and is a fundraiser, benefiting The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. This year the campaign runs March 4<sup>th</sup>-March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The students have events such Jersey Day & Hat Day with a

donation of \$1.00 per event. The winning team will be awarded a pizza party. These fun activities help to support the campaign and bring awareness to the fight against Leukemia & Lymphoma.

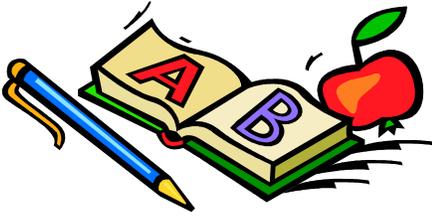
Vision screens for 7<sup>th</sup> graders are underway. Encourage your student to always wear their glasses or contacts.



Scoliosis screenings are in process for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Scoliosis screenings are performed during your student's P.E. period. If you wish to decline having your student screened for Scoliosis please complete the Scoliosis Screening Letter in the back of your student's agenda and return it to the clinic.

It's been a great year in the Bunsold Middle School Clinic with many opportunities to help others!

## Bunsold/BASE Summer Camp: 2013



This summer Bunsold Middle School and BASE will be offering a Reading / Math Camp that will provide all eligible students an opportunity to review and practice basic skills that were not mastered during the school year.

This camp is being offered to all incoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders through current 8<sup>th</sup> graders. This will be a three week camp that will run from June 10-27 (M-R from 9-12) Students will also have the opportunity to participate in other youth development activities that are designed to keep your child moving and engaged. More details will be coming out soon, so if you and your child think that this is a program you may be interested in, put these dates on your calendar and keep an eye out for more details.

Feel free to call Chris Hoehn with questions  
Bunsold Middle School Counselor  
Summer Camp Director  
937-642-1721

### **Student Council News:**



We held our annual Dodge Ball tournament on Feb. 14th. Twenty teams participated. All proceeds will be going to the BMS Relay for Life Team. The following BMS students were on the winning dodge ball team: Duck Dynasty: Luke Couchman; Noah Wiseman; Tommy Rush; Elise Freeland; Katelynn Russell & Aubree Lewis.

In February, we held our annual Valentines Candy Gram Fundraiser. Over 500 candy bars with a Valentine message were delivered to the BMS students. Proceeds from this fundraiser will be donated to the Marysville Choral Boosters.

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

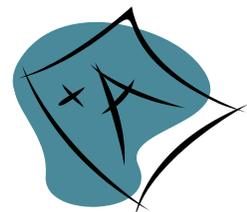
Upcoming projects: Community Care Day through United Way and Teacher Appreciation Week luncheon for BMS Staff.. We also will continue to collect Box Tops.

### **Guidance:**

The end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> nine weeks was March 22<sup>nd</sup>. 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter grade cards go out to students on Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.

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

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Interim reports can be viewed on Power School (Hard copies will not be given to students) on Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>.



# UNIFIED ARTS AT BMS

## 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.

## 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 scenarios 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.

## Physical Education

The PE department here at Bunsold has started to change over their physical fitness testing from Presidential fitness testing to Fitness Gram testing. The students will be instructed in how sit-ups, push-ups and the pacer will be scored and tested. They will have many opportunities throughout the trimester to improve on these tests before the students are given these tests at the end of the trimester. We are very excited to teach a new team game to the students this trimester called Tchoukball. This game is new to Bunsold and is an international game played mainly in Switzerland. I believe the students will love it.





## Computer Technology

There is no question about it. Computers are everywhere, and everyone is expected to know how to use one. That is why our students at BMS take 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. In the last newsletter, we examined the first essential question: **What does it mean to be a good digital citizen and how can I be one?** Here we will highlight essential questions #2 and #3.

The second essential question is: **How can I use digital tools to gather, evaluate, store, and use information?** The accessibility of information via the Internet has radically transformed how we find and use information. Information that we used to have to go to a library and physically find in print form is now available anywhere within minutes with just a few clicks of the mouse. However, we must remember that there is no “governing body” or “editor” that oversees the content of websites on the Internet. Just because you read it on the Internet, doesn’t mean that it’s factual. Students must be prepared to look at websites and the information from them critically to determine if the site is a credible source. This essential question encompasses such topics as:

- Using search engines effectively and efficiently
- Evaluating websites for accuracy and bias
- Using credible sources such as [www.infohio.org](http://www.infohio.org)
- Saving, retrieving, and using information

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?**

# ART

## Mr. Ritchie's Classes

The Winter Trimester classes finished with some outstanding work a few weeks ago. Those students finished with both painting and clay projects, many of which will be on display in this spring's BMS Art Show.

All current seventh and eighth grade Art students began the Spring Trimester by creating an art portfolio. Each student had to design his/her name, create a decorative border, and draw five images that had something to do with each student individually. Students drew all of their favorite things, like iPod apps, musical instruments, favorite foods, sports, activities, TV shows, and many more! This project serves as a "reflective" and "expressive" piece for the portfolio, which is the class folder for storing all work.



Following this project, all Art classes will be starting the drawing unit. Here, Mr. Ritchie will instruct Bunsold students on the tricks of drawing in order to become a better "observer" of art. All students will practice drawing a final still life drawing from objects in class. Mr. Ritchie will go over four drawing styles to all students. The first style is called a gesture sketch where students "speed" draw for practice. The second is a continuous line drawing where students draw a still life without lifting their pencils from the paper. The third, and student favorite, is the blind contour drawing. Here students draw a still life without looking at their papers. Finally, students will take these skills to create a still life drawing using only a pencil, eraser, and a paper towel to smug pencil lead thus adding shadows.

Be on the lookout for Bunsold Artist of the Month work displayed near the downstairs offices. Many 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester pieces of art are still hanging for a few more weeks, so be sure to check out the main downstairs hallway to see those drawings and paintings. If parents have any questions or concerns 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 third trimester art classes begin with a creative and exciting fresh start. With craftsmanship and design in mind students begin the first project, working with clay. Students will be using 21<sup>st</sup> century learning skills, communicating ideas, decision making, creative thought, working with others, and self-directedness. 7<sup>th</sup> Grade students are modeling designs out of clay based on drawings made in their portfolios, utilizing pinch, coil, and hand building techniques. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students are sculpting a relief sculpture out of a slab of clay also based on their drawings, incorporating additive and subtractive sculpture techniques. In a few weeks students will discuss chemical reactions pertaining to glazing and begin decorating their clay sculptures.



Following the Ceramic project students can expect to dive into areas of study such as cubism, pop art, abstraction, water color, surrealism, and graffiti in upcoming drawing and painting units.

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

We look forward to seeing everyone at the 4th annual spring art show Wednesday May 22<sup>th</sup>.



# MONARCH MESSENGER TEAM NEWS



In **language arts**, students finished writing their business letters to help support the Union County Personal Needs Pantry. 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. Their next writing assignment will be a personal narrative. 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, April 30<sup>th</sup>. The students have been working very diligently, and I am confident they will do well on the assessment.

As we begin our fourth grading period in **Math**, I want to remind all of my students and parents of the importance in having an organized binder and keeping it organized for the entire school year. Organization is an important tool for all students to possess as it helps them prepare for the upcoming years in school. I like to remind students, just because the sun is shining again does not mean that the school year is over. We still have plenty of work to accomplish in the next month. We will be testing over units 10, 11, & 12, and there is an economics unit that will be covered in regular math. Don't forget to take advantage of checking our Aries grade books, homework hotline and weekly update page.

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> 9 weeks in **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 Community Service project was due on Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. Thank you 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).



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.

In **math**, students recently finished studying 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 recently finished a unit on how to find the surface area and volume of cylinders, prisms, pyramids, cones, and spheres. Students are now learning how to graph linear equations, linear inequalities and quadratic equations.

**Reminder**... homework, which is an extension of the day's lesson, is given every day, with the exception of checkpoint quiz and test days.

In **Science**, students just completed the Physical Science Indicator Test. This unit focused on matter and energy. Students were introduced to the Laws of Conservation of Mass and Energy. Lab activities were completed to prove these laws. Students also learned about energy types, forms, and transformations.

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

introduced with a couple of activities that demonstrated the importance of photosynthesis. We are also discussing the transfer of energy within an ecosystem and classifying resources as either biotic or abiotic. Students are currently completing an activity emphasizing the impact of natural occurrences and human activities on the environment. 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. During the 3<sup>rd</sup> 9 weeks in **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.



In Mr. Cunningham’s **Language Arts** classes, students have worked on different short stories and what literary concepts apply to these stories. When reading the story “Amigo Brothers,” students looked at how internal and external conflict played separate and intricate parts to the story, and how the characters were dynamic (changing) or static (staying the same.) While reading the short story “Three Skeleton Key,” students concentrated on foreshadowing and how the author used clues and hints to build suspense and set the reader up for a chilling ending. After spring break, students will focus on OAA preparation, working on OAA practice tests, work on extended responses, and review of literary terms, looking at different text structures and author’s purpose for writing. Once OAA week arrives, students will receive their copy of a Lois Duncan novel, and work on

these mysteries with their literature groups and circles.

Mrs. Tucker’s **math and Pre-Algebra** classes are getting hands on with math!! Students have 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 using wooden blocks. 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 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!

In **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 team 7-3 **Science** classes have recently finished a unit all about matter and energy. Throughout the unit, the students explored physical and chemical changes, the law of conservation of mass and energy, described the movement and attraction of particles that make up matter, learned how to read the periodic table of elements and traced energy transformations through everyday machines. The students will soon be moving on to topics such as photosynthesis and symbiotic relationships. **Team 7-3** was also very well represented in the Bunsold Middle School Science Fair. Science

fair projects were completed outside of class on the students' own time. A big congratulations to Samantha Garner, Caleb Kirsch, Kyleigh Luke, Andy Thibaut, Rachel Ladefoged, Tyler Bates, Emily Cramer, Jordan Ellington, Nik Ball, Jesse Boomstra, Colton Shively, Connor Swayne and Ricky Spitznagel! Kyleigh Luke also earned a rating of



Third quarter in **language arts** class, we finished reading different types of prejudice novels. Students chose reading strategies or challenges to read their book of choice: Under the Blood Red Sun, Island on Bird Street, or Watsons Go to Birmingham. Then they met in book groups to have discussions each week and to practice their literature terms. Our big writing project we did this quarter was 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 try and help our community by making a request to local businesses to help us with our "Personal Needs Pantry" donation drive Superior and will be

In **Pre-Algebra** we are working on Geometry. We continue to work our way through our state mandated curriculum. We have just completed a review of polygons and their angles. We will be 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 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 are now working on parabola's, their graphs and solutions to quadratic equations. In Geometry we are working on the properties of three dimensional objects that include prisms, pyramids, spheres and cones. Students have just finished their "What would happen if the Constitution disappeared?" projects in **social studies** class. This is a major assessment for the 3<sup>rd</sup> nine weeks. In the process of proving they understood the basic principles of the

advancing to the District Science Fair on March 16<sup>th</sup>!

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 7-4 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.



Students on team 8-1 have just finished up argumentative writing in **language arts**. We will finish up the fourth nine weeks with a Science Fiction and History in Literature unit.

Constitution, students also had to really work on their collaboration skills. They learned a lot about the importance of staying focused, treating others with respect, and not criticizing other's ideas. We will finish up the year with a look at the costs and benefits of westward expansion, and the causes of the Civil War and its aftermath. It's been a great year, and we will be sorry to see this group go!

Through the end of 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter and the beginning of 3<sup>rd</sup>, we devoted our time to learning about the **physical sciences**. We started this unit discussing the fundamental topics of motion, speed, velocity and forces. From there, we dove deeper into the topic to learn how those concepts relate to Newton's 3 laws of motion. Students then displayed their knowledge by creating posters that showed real world application of the laws. Next, we studied the different waves that help us in our daily lives. More specifically, we learned how the waves help us to study space. This lead us into our space science unit that we are currently studying. Students are working in collaborative groups to learn

more about our Earth, sun and moon system. On the horizon, we will be exploring galaxies and stars, reviewing for the OAA and experimenting with some more project based learning.



In Mrs. Loftus's **Language Arts** classes, students are ending the quarter with their argumentative essay. Students were able to choose from three high interest topics and research recent magazine articles to find evidence to support their claims. This is difficult and sophisticated writing geared towards the new Common Core standards.

After spring break, we will begin a unit on science fiction. A short author study on Ray Bradbury and his thought-provoking warnings of future technology will have students rushing to the library for more from this great genre.

In **Pre-Algebra** students have just finished up their large unit on Algebra and we are moving into the geometry world. Look for students in the near future to bring home information on two-dimensional shapes, angles, and Pythagorean Theorem. We will continue then into perimeter, area, volume, and surface area.

In **Algebra** students are entering the great time of quadratics or parabolas. Students are learning many ways to solve quadratics including graphing, finding the square root, and the quadratic formula. Look for students to move into the last way to solve quadratics, factoring, along with graphing radical and exponential functions.

Mrs. Schnapp's team 8-2 **Social studies** class just completed a unit on the Constitution. After 5 weeks of learning about Representative Democracy, Federalism, Separation of Powers and Checks and Balances students worked in groups to write skripts answering the question "What would happen if the constitution disappeared?" After creating their script students made a radio broadcast or newscast (recording) and presented their projects to the class. We will finish this quarter examining the Bill of Rights. After spring break we will begin with Westward

Expansion and end the year with the study of the Civil War and Reconstruction.



The third quarter was very busy for **LA** students. The quarter started with a student favorite unit, focused on the amazing Edgar Allan Poe. His stories fascinate readers every year, and this year was no exception. In addition to reading stories by Poe, students have focused on learning how to effectively read nonfiction. After reading articles for several weeks, students have chosen topics related to the articles and are learning how to write argumentative essays based on those topics. Additionally, students have once again spent the year enhancing their vocabularies using Wordly Wise 3000. As weekly units have been completed, students are recognizing and understanding many new words. As the last quarter approaches, students will delve into science fiction and historical fiction to end their year of LA.

In **social studies**, students completed their study of the Constitution and will finish the 3<sup>rd</sup> nine weeks learning about the Bill of Rights. Upon return from Spring Break student will begin a unit on Westward Expansion where they will analyze the benefits and costs of United States expansion. We will end the year with the study of the causes of the Civil War, the Civil War and Reconstruction. Slavery, states' rights, and issues of taxation were to determine the future of the Union and formation of the Confederacy. Discussion will center on tension between the North and South with the secession of the Southern States once Abraham Lincoln was elected in 1860. Students will learn how the Civil War devastated the economy of the South while contributing to the rapid growth of economy in the North and West, and finally how African Americans gained their freedom. Team 8-3 **science** students have been working on the Astronomy I unit during the entire month of March. The learning activities they have been engaged in were constructed around developing independent investigation, recording, analysis and application skills as they work through five mini-learning stations of: 1)Days, Nights &

Years; 2) Seasons; 3) Moon Cycles; 4) Eclipses; and 5) Tides. They have accessed a variety of resources, including online websites and videos, their OAA workbook and textbooks as well as working with a variety of models to demonstrate the interrelationship of motion and forces acting within the Sun-Earth-Moon system. When we return from spring break, we will be working with the Astronomy II unit of Stars and Galaxies as well as beginning our preparation for OAA Science testing this spring.



Third quarter has been an exciting nine weeks in **language arts**. Students explored the macabre world of Edgar Allan Poe. The unit culminated with a mock trial. The Case of the Tell Tale Heart found students assuming the roles of attorneys, witnesses, jurors, and members of the press. It was a memorable activity. After the Poe unit, students analyzed the qualities of a great public speaker. Students studied MLK's delivery of his poignant and famous "I Have a Dream" speech. They tried to recreate oratorical fireworks of their own through quote and group speech recitations. Classes also researched the major players and events of the Civil Rights Movement and read a historical fiction book called *Mississippi Trial, 1955*. Third quarter wrapped up with the creation of argumentative essays dealing with relevant middle school topics.

In **Algebra**, the course is currently skipping around to different chapters in the textbook. This will continue 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 this spring. Students have just finished chapter 13. This chapter focused on probability and data analysis. The lessons included using permutation and combinations, analyzing surveys and samples, measures of central tendency and interpreting different types of graphs. Now students are learning about

quadratic equations and functions in chapter 10. After that students will learn about the distance, midpoint and slope formulas in chapter 11. In addition to the traditional lessons, students in Algebra are currently 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 Mathematics Achievement Test they will take in the spring.

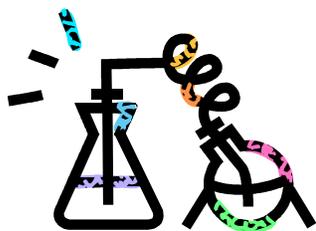
In **Pre-Algebra**, students have just started unit 10. The geometric theme started in unit 9, continues in unit 10 with the study of polygons. Students will classify polygons by sides and angles as well as find angle measures using properties of polygons. The study of similar figures will also be a part of unit 10. After this unit, students will study 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 **social studies**, students are currently studying the U.S. Constitution, the first Ten Amendments (Bill of Rights) and Amendments 11-27. Students will apply the Constitution unit to Rights and Responsibilities of U.S. Citizenship. Students will have some fun using their knowledge of the Constitution in a variety of demonstrations. What would happen if the Constitution disappeared? Well that is the investigative group project that classes are working on which hopes to be fun and yet worthwhile in learning. 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 1800-1850.

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 are very proud that TEAM 8-4 was part of a “Veteran Homecoming” as we secretly put together a special reunion between Major James Feaster and his son Ben. Mr. Feaster returned Sunday night from over a year being deployed in Afghanistan. Team 8-4 gathered for a “meeting” on Monday morning March 11 and then from behind the curtain entered Major Feaster. Special thanks to the Bunsold Choir who sang America The Beautiful as part of the reunion tribute. Ben was quite surprised as it was a special moment between father and son. GO TEAM 8-4 GO U.S. VETERANS & GO MONARCHS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Team 8-4 **science** students have been working on the Astronomy I unit during the entire month of March. The learning activities they have been engaged in were constructed around developing independent investigation, recording, analysis and application skills as they work through five mini-learning stations of: 1)Days, Nights & Years; 2)Seasons; 3)Moon Cycles; 4) Eclipses; and 5) Tides. They have accessed a variety of resources, including online websites and videos, their OAA workbook and textbooks as well as working with a variety of models to demonstrate the interrelationship of motion and forces acting within the Sun-Earth-Moon system. When we return from spring break, we will be working with the Astronomy II unit of Stars and Galaxies as well as beginning our preparation for OAA Science testing this spring.

## SCIENCE FAIR RESULTS



The BMS Science Department would like to congratulate all 44 students who participated in the BMS Science Fair. 14 students received ratings of “Good”, 23 received ratings of “Excellent”, and 7 received ratings of “Superior”. The following students received superior ratings, having the best projects of the Science Fair: Katie Weller and Addy Miller-Brown from Team 7-2, Kyleigh Luke from Team 7-3, and Cannon Daniel, Kaleigh Dougherty, Nathan Scarlatos, and Abby Dougherty all from Team 7-4. These students will be receiving gift cards for their outstanding achievement!

Three BMS students participated in the District Science Fair held at OSU-Marion on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. We would like to recognize the following students for their efforts. Cannon Daniel from Team 7-4 received a rating of “Good”. Kyleigh Luke from Team 7-3 received a rating of “Excellent”. Addy Miller-Brown from Team 7-2 received a rating of “Superior”. Addy is eligible to advance to the State Science Fair which will be held at The Ohio State University, Main Campus, on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. In addition, Addy is the recipient of a \$100 scholarship to attend the B-Wiser Camp, Buckeye Women In Science, Engineering, and Research Institute at Wooster College in June.

The BMS Science Department would like to congratulate each student for their outstanding participation at the District Science Fair competition and wish Addy the best of luck as she prepares for the state competition!

*Congratulations!*