

February 3, 2010

Dear Families,

Thank you to all of you who came in and met with us regarding your child's progress during conference time. It is so wonderful to see that we are all on the same team when it comes to the education and well being of our community.

Advisory:

Today in advisory the seventh and eighth graders completed our Conflict Resolution theme. We held a closure discussion on the Triangle Speakers and opened up a discussion on Haiti. Many of the advisories watched the following videos from CBS regarding the history of the country and the devastation it is now facing: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DgenBYKqLLE>, http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3D_VBTVMxYU&feature=related

Some advisories discussed what the kids could do to raise money for the relief effort. We are looking forward to the Red Cross speakers who will be here to talk with the students on February 17th.

The sixth grade advisors also discussed the Haitian earthquake and tied it into their discussion of how people can make a difference in other's lives. Specifically, they discussed Greg Mortenson, and the book they will be reading for Core, Three Cups of Tea.

Announcements:

- Please come to Gateway School's Town Meeting this Tuesday, February 9th at 7:00 PM in the West Cliff Room.
- Middle School Basketball intramural teams have begun! These are mixed grade teams that play at lunchtime. The winners of the tournament will play the faculty team and be treated to Jamba Juice!
- 6th grade parent coffee February 11, 8:30 -9:30AM in the West Cliff Room.
- 8th grade parents: If you would like to place a **1/4 page** "Congratulations" to your graduating child, please get it to Cindy Zimmerman by Feb 13th. It can be submitted as a pdf, photoshop file, jpg, on a CD, on paper, or any other way you wish, but **NOT** Microsoft Word (or she can scan your photo and design it myself if you provide the words). They are to be 1/4 of an 8.5 X 11 page. Please refer to last year's yearbook for examples.
- 8th graders to SCHS this Friday for SOAR day. Thank you to those parents who've volunteered to drive.
- Santa Cruz County Science Fair needs volunteers. They need adults to effectively engage students in conversations about their scientific discovery. They have experts in the field to judge the more advanced projects. It is essential to have additional volunteers to insure that all

students are guaranteed at least two interviews.

Link to register online:

http://science.santacruz.k12.ca.us/judges_registration.html

The 23rd Annual Santa Cruz County Science Fair will be held on March 13th, 2010 at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds.

- Haitian Earthquake Relief – Gateway School is collecting funds for the American Red Cross. There is a donation jar in the lobby, and the student council will be conducting a bake sale in February.

Upcoming Assignments:

Please note that dates are subject to change depending on how the class is progressing. For 7th and 8th Science, check Nina's blog for the most up-to-date information. If there is no posted information for a class, no major projects or tests are coming up this week.

6th Grade:

Spanish - Unit 3 DIME Vocab. test, Friday 2/5 (24 words!)

Science - Results/Conclusions outline due 2/3, Results Rough Draft 2/5,
Conclusion rough draft 2/10, Results final 2/12

Core –

- WW Lesson #15 Tues A,B; Wed C,D; Thurs E #1-8; Fri E # 9-15 and Test.
- Grammar p. 109 Tues #1-10, Wed #11-20 Test Friday on prepositional phrases
- Compare and contrast Siddhartha and Ameni (from the RG) bullet points/ideas
- List at least 5 bullet points about Buddhism due Tuesday 2/2 for discussion
- Topographic map of India due Friday 2/5
- Regional map and questions about India due Friday 2/5
- Continue work on poetry/art assignments
- Wednesday 2/3 new lit book: Three Cups of Tea read p. 1-18 by Mon 2/8

6th Grade Math – Wed: 5-5&6; Thur: 5-7; Fri: Quiz on 5-1 – 5-7; Mon: 5-8;
Tue & Wed: Study Days (study guide due); Thurs (2/11): Test on Chapter

5

6th Grade Pre Algebra – Friday, Feb. 5th Quiz Chapter 5 lessons 1-5. Keep studying math facts through 12

7th Grade

Spanish - Chap. 4 Vocab. test, Friday 2/5. All Pruebas due that day, too.

Science - View website for science fair info.

Rough drafts of conclusion due Friday

Core – 7th Grade Core - Work continues on our Ancient Rome project this week and next.

Friday, February 5th - All visual effects built into the program

Tuesday, February 9th - Final music applied to slides

Thursday, February 11th - Final voice-overs readings applied to slides

Pre Algebra – Friday, Feb. 5th Quiz Chapter 5 lessons 1-5. Keep studying math facts through 12

Algebra – Began Chapter 7 today. Thu: 7-2; Fri: 7-3; Mon: 7-4; Tue: 7-5; Wed: Study day (study guide due)

Test on Chapter 7 Thu. 2/11

8th Grade

Spanish - Chap. 12 Vocab. test, Monday 2/8. All Pruebas due that day, too.

Core – Wednesday: Class work on the Lincoln/Douglas debates; grammar lesson;

class work on mock presidential election

Thursday: Ch. 10 of *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* is due; reading quiz (chapters 9 and 10)

Friday: Class work on mock presidential election; grammar quiz

Monday: Class work on mock presidential election; history reading due (Ch. 16, section 1); in-class reading

Tuesday: Ch. 11 of *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* is due; final discussion on Douglass

Wednesday: Class work on mock presidential election; history reading due (Ch. 16, section 2); history quiz

Foundations of Algebra – Feb. 3 Chapter 4 test lessons 1-4

Algebra – Chapter 5 test Wednesday, midterm next Wed.

Geometry – Wed & Thur: 5-3; Fri: Quiz on 5-1 – 5-3; Mon: 5-4; Tue & Wed: 5-5;

Thur: Study Day (study guide due); Fri (2/12): Test on Ch 5

Science - view website for science fair info.

Rough drafts of conclusion due - Thurs 8a, Fri 8b

We look forward to seeing you this Saturday at the auction!

Sincerely,

The Middle School Team