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Principal's Message



Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to all our families! I hope this year brings much joy and success to all our wonderful SMS students. Our students have been involved in so many creative endeavors each day and it has been a pleasure watching them grow. On January 30th we celebrated our 20th annual Cultural Heritage Celebration where students, staff and families came together to celebrate the rich diversity of our school. Thanks to the

meticulous work of our Cultural Heritage Committee, made up of both parents and staff, the event was a true success! Many thanks go to the PTA for their invaluable support. I thank all those who participated in the artifacts and food tastings, as well as the show. Our students practiced for months and expressed their pride and love for their cultures through music and dance. Our school is so fortunate to enjoy such diversity!

Recently, I sent a letter to all parents regarding our "de-request" policy. I want to take this opportunity to remind all parents that the deadline for all de-requests is Monday, April 8th. Please use the following link to make any "de-requests"

<https://forms.gle/8Pji6bWFZEmDiWYB7>

Great Neck South Middle School

349 Lakeville Rd, Great Neck, NY
(516) 441-4600

www.greatneck.k12.ny.us/SMS

PRINCIPAL

Dr. Gina Cartolano

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Mr. Ryan Nadherny

Mr. Leonard DiBiase





PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

A “de-request” must be based on your current child’s experience with that teacher, or the experience of an older child. Parents are not permitted to “de-request” a particular teacher based on something that they may have heard from another parent or student. Also, if you would like your child separated from **one** other child next year, or placed with **one** other child next year, please let us know that as well. As always, we will do our best to honor your request.

Thank you for sending your children to school prepared and ready to learn. Please remember that all students must arrive at school with their ID cards ready to “tap into” our security system. Students who wish to participate in the morning intramural program should be dropped off directly at SMS starting at 7:30 AM. They are not permitted to take the HS buses and walk through the buildings.

As always, I want to thank you for your support of our amazing school! We are partners in your child’s education and are always grateful to work with such caring and supportive parents.

Please follow us on Facebook where you can check out all the engaging learning opportunities going on at SMS each day!! <https://www.facebook.com/gnsms/>

If you have any questions or comments on any of our newsletter content, please do not hesitate to reach out.

All the best,

Gina M. Cartolano, Ed. D.

Principal



PTA MESSAGE

Great Neck South Middle School PTA

CO-PRESIDENTS

Clara Feacher
Sicheng Peng
Karen Yan

EXEC. VICE PRESIDENTS

Anita Cheung
Elena Keung

VICE PRESIDENTS

Shihpei Chang
Jenny Hwang
Matthew Jagoda
Fan Jia
Penelope Nirenstein
Ana Paranos
Carol Peng
Angela Pian
Evelyn Stravrinides
Ping Su
Kevin Sun
Ruoyi Xu
Ellen Yi

TREASURER

Holly Wong

RECORDING SECRETARY

Charlotte Chiu

MULTILINGUAL COORDINATOR

Joyce Jing

SEPTA REPRESENTATIVE

Julie Lam

UPTC DELEGATES

Benjamin Wang
Si Wen

SHARED DECISION MAKING

Maria Condello
Wendy Halpern
Angela Pian

MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Antoinette Capodanno

ptasouthmiddle@gmail.com

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Happy New Year, SMS Families!

We are halfway through our 2023-24 school year! This semester was filled with events and holidays, and an incredible outpouring of community involvement and support.

In our second semester, the PTA:

- Hosted a lovely Thanksgiving Breakfast to show appreciation for our staff
- Coordinated a wonderful Holiday Gift Shop with a large selection of fun gifts
- Ran two successful snack sales, including a Krispy Kreme donut sale
- Facilitated an amazing apple tasting event for our students with the Korean Parents Association
- Organized a sneaker drive
- Supported the 8th grade Dancing Classrooms event by providing refreshments and decor
- Purchased card games and chess and checkers sets for the 6th grade Frost Valley trip/indoor lunch at SMS
- Donated gift cards for the Cultural Heritage trivia contests
- Provided dinner, snacks, and waters for our Cultural Heritage instructors and performers, as well as all of the paper goods and utensils for attendees

As always, none of this would be possible without your generosity of time and resources. Each of you plays a significant role in all of our children's lives, ensuring the preservation of diverse events and activities throughout the school community. We can't say it enough—THANK YOU for your passionate engagement!

Toward the end of the third quarter, please look out for our emails and opportunities to join next year's PTA Executive Board. If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact us at ptasouthmiddle@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Clara Feacher, Karen Yan, and Sicheng Peng
SMS PTA Co-Presidents



ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS



Mr. Nadherny's Message

Happy New Year to all of our families. I am so incredibly proud of the South Middle learning community. We continue to provide our students with exceptional opportunities during the school day and after school. I am thrilled that our afterschool offerings continue to flourish with remarkable student participation in clubs and activities, extra help, and sports. Our students come to school each day ready to learn, and they put tremendous effort into their work. Our staff continues to work diligently to provide exceptional learning opportunities.

They are incredible role models for the children and are dedicated to supporting them not only academically but socially and emotionally as well. I truly believe that we have the best faculty in the world! We also have an incredible parent body, who are supportive and are true partners in their children's education. This combination leads to a school environment which fosters student growth and development.

The excitement of eighth grade continued during the second quarter! It's hard to believe that this means that our eighth-grade students are halfway through their final year of middle school. I am amazed by how far they have come since sixth grade. That being said, the joy of eighth grade has just begun! Representatives from the high school will be meeting with all eighth graders on March 5th to discuss the opportunities that await them at South High and to provide details of the course offerings. On March 14th, guidance staff from South Middle School will facilitate the elective selection process for current eighth-grade students. There is also a Grade 9 Parent and Student Orientation at South High on February 29th, which will be very informative. We encourage all current eighth-grade families to attend this important meeting.

Our eighth-grade teachers have been dedicated to finding an exciting and unique experience for their eighth-grade trip. We are thrilled to announce that our eighth graders will be embarking on an exhilarating journey to Six Flags Great Adventure in May! More information will be provided soon about this incredible adventure.

Our Relay Field Day initiative continues to be a fun and collaborative way of bringing the school community together to help raise money for cancer research. We participated in our first Purple Day of the year. Students and staff were encouraged to wear purple clothing and other purple items in support of our Relay Field Day initiative and cancer awareness. Purple Day culminated with the sale of purple doughnuts after school. Students also had the opportunity to take part in a Breakout Game. Much like an Escape Room, students worked together to solve a series of clues and puzzles to discover the combinations needed to open a series of locks on a Breakout box. Thank you for continuing to support this worthwhile cause!

Mr. Ryan Nadherny



ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Purple Day



Breakout Game





ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS



Mr. DiBiase's Message

There is a saying that you can only go halfway into a forest. Once you pass the halfway point, you are now on your way to leaving the forest. The same could be said for a school year. As we reach the halfway point, one eye should begin to focus on the opportunities of the next school year. For our 7th graders, that means the prospect of choosing their eighth grade electives. Our school offers so many options and we always do our best to match students with their top choices as well as electives that we believe will suit their talents and interests.

During the second quarter, something magical begins to happen to 7th graders. They become secondary students. They start to impose their personalities on their learning. They begin to forge their own path. That path remains guided by our incredible staff and by you, the supportive parents and guardians of the South Middle Community.

For me, the 7th grade highlight of the second quarter was the December 22nd Talent Show and Minute To Win It. The entire 7th grade came together to showcase the amazing talents of our students. And we had A LOT of fun. It's important for students to socialize, have fun and share their talents and creativity. I applaud the 7th grade teachers for keeping this tradition active.

Every day I am in awe of the passion and dedication of our staff. They are battling personal illness, family illness, child care issues, elder care issues, and a list of struggles that goes on. They courageously pitch in to help each other out with the focus being on providing the best possible environment for your children. I implore you to take a moment and recognize their efforts. A quick note, and email, or a phone call will go a long way to reminding them that they are appreciated.

On the topic of appreciation, I would like to thank all of the parents and guardians of the South Middle learning community. Your support, flexibility, dedication to safety, and involvement have made this year easier. We truly are a team. There is nothing that we cannot accomplish together.

Mr. Leonard DiBiase



GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

Occasional anxiety is a part of life- it is a natural reaction to events or situations that are frightening or stressful. When we feel anxious, our bodies often react by releasing adrenaline, which can increase our heart rate and breathing. For most students, the feeling of anxiety goes away when the situation is over, or the problem is resolved.



In the Guidance suite, the School Counselors are a “safe space” for students to come and talk about their feelings and get coping strategies to help them in anxious situations. Our doors are always open and welcome to any student that would like to come down and chat if they need to. Below are some helpful strategies for dealing with the occasional feelings of anxiety.

~ The School Counselors

TYPES OF SELF CARE

1	PHYSICAL	Sleep, stretching, physical activity, healthy eating and rest.
2	EMOTIONAL	Stress management, gratitude, acts of kindness, forgiveness and compassion.
3	SOCIAL	Personal boundaries, support systems, positive social media and spending time with loved ones.
4	SPIRITUAL	Time alone, space, yoga, meditation, mindfulness, connection and nature.
5	PERSONAL	Hobbies, self identity, doing the things that bring you enjoyment.
6	SPACE	Safety, organization, clean and tidy, security and stability.
7	WORK	Time management, work boundaries, break time and knowledge.

Neck and shoulder awareness

Sit comfortably and breathe in and out slowly. The aim of this exercise is to notice how each part of your body feels.

Start at the top of your head, can you feel your hair? What does it feel like? Is it rubbing on your face? Have you got a hat on? Can you feel your hair tie?

Start to make your way down to your shoulders, can you feel any tension in your shoulder area? Do you feel tight? Take a deep breath and try to loosen your shoulders and neck. Do a few neck stretches, turn your head to the left and slowly to the right.

Breathe in and out and repeat until you feel calm again.

Anxiety Scale

ONE	MINIMAL	Little feelings of worry, fear or nervousness. Still able to concentrate and get things done. Little physical symptoms such as heart pounding, butterflies in stomach
TWO	MILD	Breathlessness, nausea, headache, muscle tension, heart pounding fast, chest tightness, sweaty, nervous feeling, weak legs and arms, clumsy, trembling, vomiting Having a sense of impending danger, panic or doom These thoughts and physiological responses are usually short lived and you are able to move past the thoughts and feelings in a short time.
THREE	MODERATE	All of the above symptoms plus: Symptoms are more intense and lasting longer Changes in sleep and appetite. Avoidance of things you used to find enjoyment in, or avoiding places or people that might trigger your anxiety Changes in concentration Fatigued
FOUR	SEVERE	All of the above symptoms plus: Thoughts and feelings come out of nowhere and interferes with day to day life, intense and disproportionate emotional response. Can't let go of thoughts
FIVE	DEBILITATING	All of the above symptoms plus: Waking up in the middle of the night with anxious feelings. Heart is constantly pounding, nervous and jittery feeling all day. Disorientation Anxious thoughts and feelings have been ongoing for weeks or months

5-4-3-2-1 GROUNDING TECHNIQUE

Take a deep breath and identify

- 5 Things you can SEE
- 4 Things you can FEEL
- 3 Things you can HEAR
- 2 Things you can SMELL
- 1 Thing you can TASTE



8th Grade *TEAM A*

ENGLISH

In 8th grade English classes:

- Students are engaged in a graphic novel unit, book clubs, and narrative writing.
- Self-Select students are participating in the Wordmasters vocabulary challenges and competed in the first contest back in December.
- Students are frequenting the library to engage with meaningful texts as we move into quarter three.

SCIENCE

Students in Team 8A's Earth Science classes (taught by **Mr. Hatten, Mrs. Hoey, Mr. Pernice, and Mr. Cardo**) have been hard at work as they engineered earthquake proof structures. Students used the engineering design process to design and build a tower made of toothpicks and marshmallows that could withstand earthquake waves for 10 seconds atop a tray of marbles. Students had to identify the problem, constraints, criteria and plan out their designs before diving into the construction process. Students were engineers who used science to help the world live with seismic risks.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Students in **Mr. Isaac's Social Studies classes** have been:

- Examining the similarities and differences in both the diplomacy and strategy behind the United States' involvement in both world wars
- Considering the ways in which authoritarian governments compelled people to commit acts of injustice
- Using clips from Ken Burns' 2023 documentary "The US and the Holocaust" to explore questions of America's culpability in ignoring the news emerging from Nazi Germany
- Embarking upon a project that will challenge them to choose a modern atrocity or genocide and apply their historical knowledge to arrive at Enduring Understandings about conflict and diplomacy



8th Grade *TEAM A*

MATH

Mr. Zweig & Ms. Jeshiva's Pre-Algebra Classes:

- Studied transformation geometry, working with images of figures under translations, reflections, rotations and dilations
- Analyzed properties of similar figures and applied these to solve real-world problems, such as finding heights by working with height to shadow ratios
- Studied proportional relationships and slope
- Investigated linear equations in 2 variables, graphing lines using tables and the slope-intercept method
- Learned how to write linear equations from information in a graph, table, or word problem
- Have been using Desmos – both the online graphing calculator as well as various Desmos activities to aid in developing and understanding math concepts

Please continue to monitor your child's progress through the parent portal.

Mr. Zweig's Algebra classes:

- Have been focused this quarter on an in-depth study of functions in general and linear functions in particular, including...
- Understanding the concept of a function, function notation, domain and range, average rate of change, and interpreting graphical features of a function
- Graphing linear functions
- Writing equations of a line in slope-intercept, point-slope and standard form
- Writing and analyzing equations of parallel and perpendicular lines
- Modeling real-world examples using linear equations
- Analyzing and graphing absolute value functions and piecewise-defined functions
- Writing formulas for arithmetic sequences, making the connection to linear functions
- Using Desmos – both the online graphing calculator as well as various Desmos activities to aid in developing and understanding math concepts

Please continue to monitor your child's progress through the parent portal.



8th Grade *TEAM A*

Grade 8 English with Mrs. Cirelli-Rogers and Mr. Mike has been busy working on many projects.

The Interview Project:

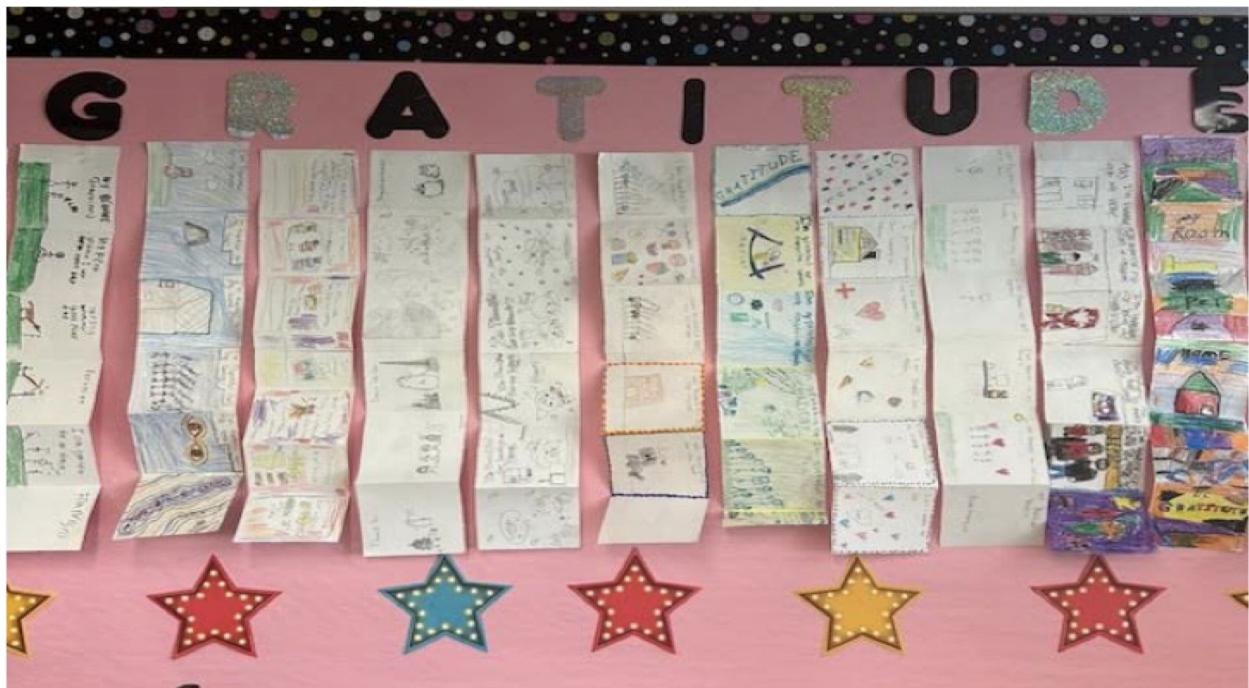
Students analyzed the musical film "Cinderella" with Camila Cabello and Billy Porter and the short story "Fairy Tale" written by Todd Strasser. As a culminating project, students worked collaboratively to develop an interview of questions and answers for Cinderella and her Prince Robert. Presentations focused on the experiences, attitudes, characterizations, and perspectives of both literary works.

The Gratitude Essay:

Students wrote personal gratitude essays dedicating them to family members, friends, teachers, etc. Once completed, students shared their work with those people in their lives.

Gratitude Accordion Booklet:

Students reflected on 2023 and created an accordion booklet of gratitude. Lots of reflection and look ahead was involved in the creative process.





8th Grade **TEAM B**

ENGLISH

In **Ms. Griffin's** and **Ms. DiSilvio's** 8th grade English classes:

- Students are engaged in a graphic novel unit, book clubs, and analysis writing.
- Students created their own mini-graphic novels based on the independent reading novel they selected.
- Students continue to develop their analysis writing skills through the revision process.
- Self-Select students are participating in the Wordmasters vocabulary challenges and competed in the first contest back in December.
- Students continue to engage with meaningful texts as we move into quarter three.

SOCIAL STUDIES

During the second quarter, students in **Mr. Bua's**, **Mr. D'Angelo's** and **Mrs. Galgano's** classes:

- Completed our thematic study of the impact of Economics on American History
- Studied the origins of World War I, America's shift from neutrality to engagement
- Analyzed the strengths and weaknesses of the Treaty of Versailles, the League of Nations, and how the shortcomings of both contributed to the rise of World War II
- Explored the causes and impact of the rise of totalitarianism around the world
- Learned about the Holocaust, from Oprah's interview with Elie Weisel to Ken Burn's documentary, *The US and the Holocaust*
- Read the Holocaust novel *What the Night Sings*

Students are currently working on their atrocities project.

SCIENCE

In quarter 2, **Mr. Pernice** and **Mr. Cardo's Earth Science classes** finished discussing Rocks and Minerals before going into earthquakes and plate tectonics. Following an in-depth exploration of current events (volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, tsunamis), students had the opportunity to investigate methods to mitigate the impact of these natural disasters. Towards the end of the second quarter, the classes learned about geologic history; utilizing information from the Earth Science Reference Table to work backwards and develop timelines for various rock outcrops.



8th Grade *TEAM B*

MATH

Mr. Giannone's Algebra classes focus this quarter was an in-depth study of functions in general and linear functions in particular. Topics covered include:

- Understanding the concept of a function, function notation, domain and range, average rate of change, and interpreting graphical features of a function.
- Graphing linear functions.
- Writing equations of a line in slope-intercept, point-slope and standard form.
- Writing and analyzing equations of parallel and perpendicular lines.
- Modeling real-world examples using linear equations.
- Analyzing and graphing absolute value functions and piecewise-defined functions.
- Systems of linear equation and inequalities
- Properties of Exponents
- Exponential functions and their real world applications (exp. growth and decay)
- Sequences – arithmetic and geometric – including an exploration of the Fibonacci sequence and the Golden Ratio!

Students have been using *Desmos*, the online graphing calculator, to aid in developing and understanding math concepts. We also spent time in class discussing metacognition—thinking about our own thought processes—as a way to help understand what leads to errors made on assessments, so that we can avoid making the same mistakes on future assessments. We hope to make this reflective practice a regular part of the learning process moving forward.

Mrs. Tanner's Pre-Algebra Classes:

- Studied transformation geometry, working with images of figures under translations, reflections, rotations and dilations.
- Applied properties of similar figures to a real-world situation.
- Studied proportional relationships and slope.
- Investigated linear equations in 2 variables, graphing lines using tables and the slope-intercept method.
- Learned how to write linear equations from information in a graph, table, or word problem.

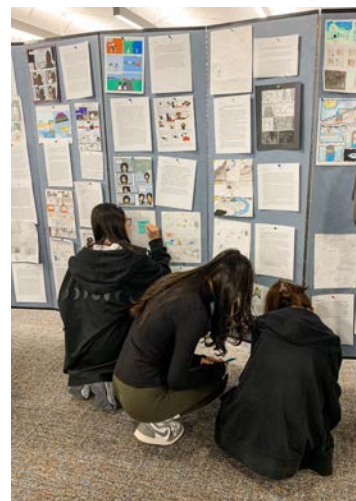
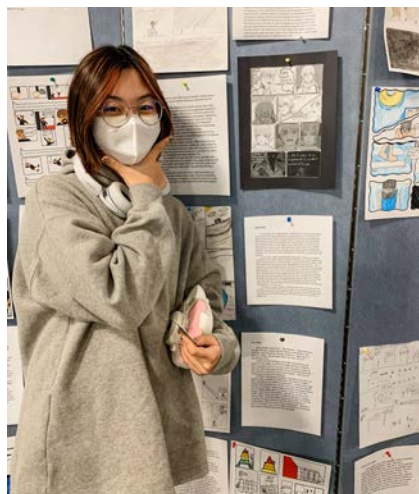


8th Grade *TEAM C*

ENGLISH

In 8th grade English classes:

- Students are engaged in a graphic novel unit, book clubs, and narrative writing.
- Self-Select students are participating in the Wordmasters vocabulary challenges and competed in the first contest back in December.
- Students are frequenting the library to engage with meaningful texts as we move into quarter three.



Team 8C writers display their graphic novel shorts in the library.



8th Grade *TEAM C*

MATH

Mr. Friedman's students have been using Desmos – both the online calculator as well as various Desmos activities to aid in developing and understanding math concepts. Please continue to monitor your child's progress through the parent portal. Some of the topics we have studied in each class include:

Pre-Algebra (Co-taught with Mr. Migliano):

- Transformations (Reflections, Rotations, Translations, Dilations)
- Similarity
- Proportional Relationships
- Slope (Types, Rise over Run, Formula)
- Graphing lines using a table of values
- Graphing lines using the slope-intercept method
- Writing equations of lines from a graph, table, and word problem
- Introduction to Functions

Algebra:

- Writing and Graphing Linear Equations (Slope-Intercept Form, Point-Slope Form, Standard Form)
- Modeling with Linear Functions
- Piecewise Linear Functions
- Step Functions
- Absolute Value Functions
- Parallel and Perpendicular Lines
- Linear Inequalities
- Arithmetic Sequences
- Fibonacci Sequence and The Golden Ratio
- Systems of Linear Equations (Graphing, Substitution, Elimination, Word Problems)
- Systems of Linear Inequalities (Graphing, Word Problems)
- Geometric Sequences
- Properties of Exponents (Positive, Zero, and Negative)
- Exponential Functions



8th Grade **TEAM C**

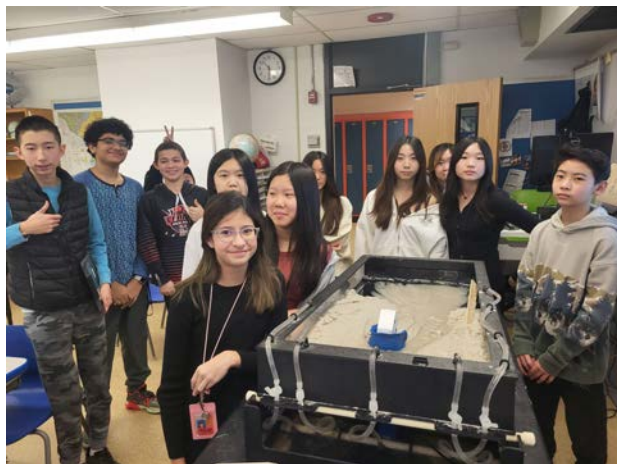
SOCIAL STUDIES

Mr. DeSiano and Mrs. Workosky's 8th grade Social Studies:

- The second quarter began with a quiz covering the previous thematic unit's second half: Economic Policy and the American Dream. The material dealt with the end of the Great Depression through the early 2000s.
- Following that, classes began our second thematic unit: International Conflict and Diplomacy. Here students focus on American use of force and diplomacy since the late nineteenth century.
- Some essential questions include:
 - When is military intervention appropriate?
 - Do wars provide lasting solutions to disputes between nations?
 - What role does diplomacy play in maintaining a balance between peace and power?
- Discussions have focused on the Spanish American War, The Roosevelt Corollary, The Panama Canal and globalization and the lead up to World War I.
- Students studied the changes in warfare brought on during World War I, the impact of the war and the long-term effects.
- World War II followed as did conversations on the rise of dictatorships and the limiting of individual liberty. With the U.S. entry in the war class focused on intent and strategy both at home and abroad.
- With the war over, the topic will turn to atrocities committed during the war. Classes are just beginning the book, *What the Night Sing*, the story of a young girl who survives the Holocaust. Following the book, we will also discuss the atrocities committed in the Pacific during the war.
- Students will begin and complete a project titled: Atrocities of War and the International Community. Here they will have a variety of forums to present their research, material and conclusions.

SCIENCE

Students in **Mr. Bordi's classes** are currently learning about weathering, erosion, and deposition. The students shown here are using a stream table to show the effects of moving water and stream erosion. Our future engineers engaged in a lab activity called "Save This House" where they constructed paper houses and created bridges, barriers and different foundations with modeling clay to see if their houses were strong enough to withstand a flood.





7th Grade *HERO*

Team Hero Veterans Event

In November we hosted our annual **Thank a Veteran Event!** Veterans from local community centers were interviewed by students. The veterans brought history to life when they shared their personal experiences. Students created artwork to honor our veterans for their service.





7th Grade *HERO*

7th Grade Talent Show and Minute to Win it!

The day before the holiday break, the 7th grade had a talent show. Here are some pictures of students from our team who performed! We are so proud of them for showcasing their talent with the entire grade!



ENGLISH

English with Ms. Marr and Ms. McManus

- In the **science fiction** unit, *Visions of the Future*, students studied the genre of science fiction in depth by reading science fiction stories and novels. We visited South Middle's library to hear booktalks by Mrs. D'Onofrio, our school librarian, and Mr. Reader. Students chose science fiction books to read from the library's extensive collection. Throughout the quarter, students discussed texts in reading clubs and in their collaborative annotations in Actively Learn to analyze setting, characterization, conflict, theme, and writer's craft. They compared and contrasted original texts with their adaptations. Along the way, in our notebooks and in our conversations, we reflected on how the themes in the stories and novels resonate in our lives today.
- Next, in the **research skills** unit, students will be reading nonfiction texts. They will be using research databases and NoodleTools to gather notes and to evaluate information for their research projects. Students are encouraged to share their research projects with *Middleview*, South Middle's student newspaper.. Students are also encouraged to submit their creative writing to *Rebel Pen*, South Middle's art and writing magazine, throughout the year.



7th Grade *HERO*

MATH

Math with Ms. Sagevick and Ms. Jeshiva

Students in **Math 7** are:

- finished with their unit on **proportional relationships** and have begun working on **percentages**.
- eager to join in class discussion and have been enjoying their partner work.
- working together to review through the use of fun and challenging **games** like solving escape the rooms, scavenger hunts and battleship.
- going to be learning about **linear expression, equations and inequalities** in quarter 3.



Students in **Pre-Algebra** are:

- engaged in class discussions and collaboration on topics such as **translations, rotations, reflections and dilations**.
- exploring **similar figures**.
- working together to review topics with fun and challenging **games** like escape the rooms, desmos and gimkit.
- going to be learning about **equations of line** and **functions** as we move into quarter 3.

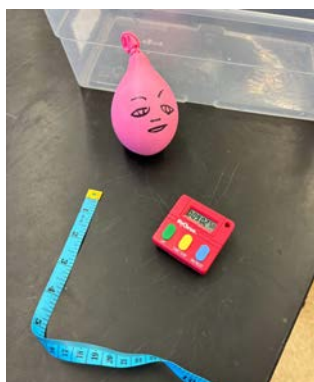
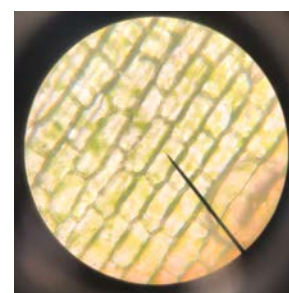
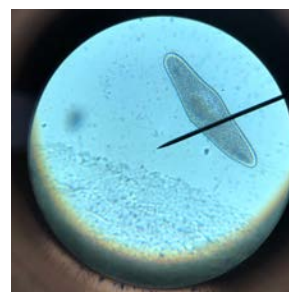


7th Grade HERO

SCIENCE

Science with Mr. Wong and Ms. Diesu

- In **science** class, we just finished the end of our **cells** unit. Students began by looking at five different objects and determining if they were living. We got to see brine shrimp eggs hatch, seeds germinate, and yeast fill balloons as it performed cellular respiration.
- Students got to see different microorganisms under the **microscope**. They saw brine shrimp, euglena, paramecium, onion, and cheek cells.
- As we learned about the cells and their organelles (cell parts), students saw **models** and **analogies** to help them understand the functions of the cell parts.
- Students learned about osmosis with an egg-cellent eggs-periment! They saw water diffusing in and out of egg cells. Feel free to try it at home! Take an egg and place it in a cup of vinegar for a couple of days!
- Students learned about cellular respiration through creating yeast “babies.” We saw yeast in action as they created carbon dioxide and filled balloons.
- In **flex**, students are working on a **science fair** project. Students began exploring their interests and coming up with topics. They are currently writing hypotheses and preparing to perform their experiments. We are so excited to see what the students discover.





7th Grade **HERO**

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies with Mr. DeSiano

- The most recent theme in social studies has been "The Quest to Define America."
- Classes started off examining the **colonization** of North America by the English - who settled here, why, etc.
- Following this, students moved on to America's earliest **presidents** and how they shaped the early years of our country.
- From there discussion turned to the era of **Manifest Destiny**. Topics such as the Oregon Trail and the California Gold Rush were studied. Clips from the Steven Spielberg miniseries *Into the West* were used to enhance the learning experience.
- Classes are currently discussing **Industrialization** and **Urbanization**, both the positives and the negatives.
- Once finished, we will be on to learning about the rights that the **Bill of Rights** guarantee. Discussions will include: freedom of speech, gun control, and the death penalty, among other things.

Social Studies with Mr. Nahoum and Ms. Jeshiva

- In social studies classes, students have been learning about our newest theme, Conflicting Ideals and the Quest to Define America.
- We began with an exploration of American ideals and values from the era of **colonization** through the creation of our **Constitution**. Students have explored our founding documents including the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the **Bill of Rights** to trace our ideals and discover patterns of the ideas that made America.
- As a culminating activity for the first three months of the school year, students created "Ugly Sweaters" just before the holiday break where they selected a topic in U.S. history we have explored since September and turned it into an "ugly" holiday-themed sweater. Students submissions included topics ranging from the Constitution to secession.
- For our next topic, students will be learning about the Bill of Rights and our essential freedoms that are protected in the First Ten Amendments through a series of landmark Supreme Court rulings.
- Students will begin following the results of the first primaries and caucuses of the 2024 presidential election season!



Team Hero students Rehaan Cardenas-Hussain, Arjun Roy and Logan Gilbert with their "Ugly Sweaters" on a variety of topics in U.S. History.

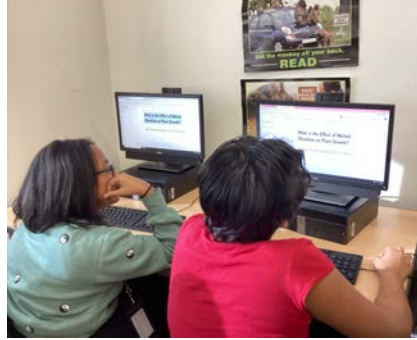


7th Grade VOYAGER

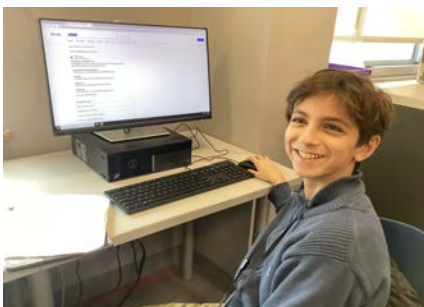
FLEX

In Flex, students worked on:

- Reinforcing science and math concepts
- Their science fair projects



- 7th grade pollination garden project





7th Grade VOYAGER

ENGLISH

In **English with Mrs. Sandrowicz & Ms. McManus**, students:

- analyzed artistic portrayals of key scenes in *Monkey King* and then crafted powerful thematic statements.
- voyaged to Phipps lawn to gather ideas and inspiration for their nature fables and myths.
- drafted complex sentences using a variety of interpretive comic visuals.
- increased self-motivation through feedback driven revisions.
- explored science fiction short stories and novels in collaborative book club settings
- developed their independent reading lives through reflective individual conferences.



MATH

In **Mrs. Zambrotta's math classes**:

- **Pre-Algebra** has been covering select topics in Geometry, using equations to set up finding the unknown angle measure, finding the complements/supplements of given angles, and practicing finding the angles given two parallel lines cut by a transversal.
- **Math 7** students have begun to explore the Math N-Gen learning standards "Ratio and Proportional Reasoning" as well as "Percent/Percent Applications".

Mrs. Zambrotta's math classes have been using the Castle Learning online platform for math practice, proficiency, building fluency, and mastery of math concepts. Under Mrs. Zambrotta's direction, students will be taught how to create a "self-study assignment" where they can customize their questions to specific topics. This can be used for review.



7th Grade VOYAGER

SOCIAL STUDIES

In **Mrs. Galgano's and Ms. Miranda's Social Studies classes**, students:

- are focusing on our next theme, Conflicting Ideals and the Quest to Define America.
- worked collaboratively on notetaking skills, analyzing documents and flipped lessons while examining the English Colonies.
- mapped out the territories added to the U.S. and examined why and how new territories were added. As they studied the Oregon Trail,
- students viewed the TNT mini series *Into the West*, which depicts real life historical scenarios along the trail.
- will head back East to compare the North industrial society to that of the rural South and how two different societies were created.



Mrs. Galgano's classes went around the room analyzing scenarios determining if anyone's rights had been violated according to the Bill of Rights. Students then had to write the number of the amendment and the appropriate phrases from the amendment that relate to the situation.

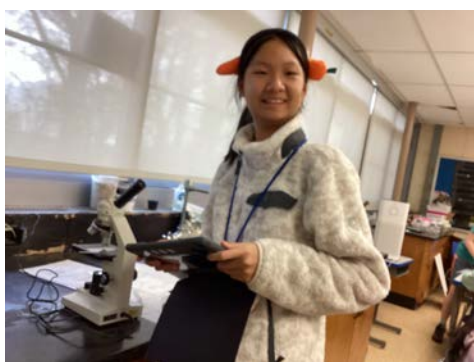


7th Grade VOYAGER

SCIENCE

In **Ms. Caplain's science classes**, we covered topics such as:

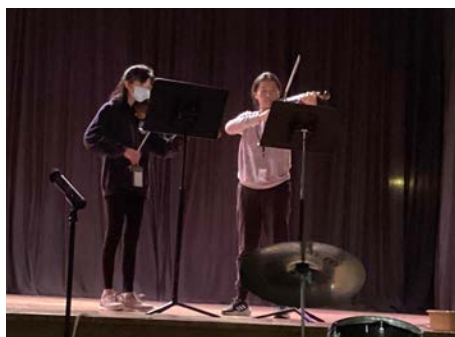
- Characteristics and needs of living things- experiments disproving spontaneous generation microscopes and cells.
- Learning how to use the microscope has been a big focus of the labs this quarter.
- We learned how to estimate size and do drawings of what we observe in the microscope.
- We looked at water plant leaves, onion skin, our own cheek cells and different types of protists. Students learned how to make wet mount slides, the use of staining techniques, and the use of depression slides as they learned the difference between unicellular and multicellular organisms, and the parts of plant and animal cells.





7th Grade VOYAGER

Voyager participated in both the talent show and Minute to Win It on the day before the December vacation.



Messages

8th

Team A
Team B
Team C

7th

Hero
Voyager
Wonder

6th

Discovery
Endeavor
Innovation

Special Areas

Art
FACS

Library
Music
Health

PE
Tech
Language

Teams & Clubs

Special Events



7th Grade *WONDER*

ENGLISH

English with Mrs. Sabino:

- The quarter started off with a deep dive into dystopian texts and the world of Ray Bradbury. Students turned and talked during read alouds, exploring ideas embedded within the text.
- As students engaged with these short stories, they also practiced analysis with the goal of generating big ideas and moving into nuanced, multidimensional thinking that strives to reveal what the text reveals about the world.
- Students receive extensive feedback in the form of written comments as well as writing conferences, and they improved their work by submitting revisions.
- From there, students took another look at their dystopian stories, this time, looking through the lens of author's craft, exploring word choice, figurative language, and dialogue.
- This past week, students joined other classmates in dystopian book clubs. They will receive several mini-lessons and spend time discussing their books with their club members.





7th Grade *WONDER*

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies with Mr. D'Angelo:

- The most recent theme in social studies has been "The Quest to Define America."
- We started off by examining the colonization of North America by the English - who settled here, why, etc.
- We moved on to our earliest presidents and how they shaped the early years of our country.
- From there we moved onto the era of Manifest Destiny. Topics such as the Oregon Trail and the California Gold Rush were studied.
- We recently finished discussing Industrialization and Urbanization, both the positives and the negatives.
- We are now moving on to learning about the rights that the Bill of Rights guarantees. The students and I will be engaging in spirited discussions about freedom of speech, gun control, and the death penalty, among other things.

FLEX

Flex this quarter found Team Wonder teachers introducing students to the National Park System, as they commenced the annual "FIND YOUR PARK" project. Seventh graders were introduced to "America's Best Idea" through film, websites, and research skills. Having selected a top favorite site, students will soon produce a 30-second promotional video of their site of choice, and offer the SMS community the chance to take a "30-second vacation" as they scan a QR code that transports them to each student's movie. We hope each person at SMS will be inspired to get out and enjoy these shared public lands, and find their own park!





7th Grade *WONDER*

MATH

Mr. Friedman's class has completed the following topics through the second quarter of the 2023-2024 school year:

- Inequality Word Problems
- Ratios
- Rates
- Proportions
- Slope
- Constant of Proportionality
- Direct Variation
- Percent Proportion
- Percent Change
- Percent Error
- Discount
- Sales Tax
- Mark-up
- Tip
- Commission
- Simple Interest
- Scale Drawings
- Circles

A strong emphasis was placed on conceptual understanding. To begin the third quarter, the students will be studying lengthy units dealing with Probability and Statistics.

Mr. Zweig's Pre-Algebra Classes:

- Studied transformation geometry, working with images of figures under translations, reflections, rotations and dilations.
- Analyzed properties of similar figures and applied these to solve real-world problems, such as finding heights by working with height to shadow ratios.
- Studied proportional relationships and slope.
- Investigated linear equations in 2 variables, graphing lines using tables and the slope-intercept method.
- Learned how to write linear equations from information in a graph, table, or word problem.
- Students have been using Desmos – both the online graphing calculator as well as various Desmos activities to aid in developing and understanding math concepts.

Please continue to monitor your child's progress through the parent portal.

Mrs. Tanner's math class are focused on solving challenging problems to help our students become critical thinkers. We have begun to explore the Math N-Gen learning standards. Some of the topics we have studied in the class include:

- Ratio and Proportional Reasoning
- Percent and Percent Application: Including, Tax, Tip, Discount, Mark-up and Interest
- Evaluating Expressions
- Distributive Property
- Sequences



7th Grade *WONDER*

SCIENCE

- Quarter 2 for **Ms. Willis' science students** was a deep dive into the barely visible world of microbiology! Students developed proficiency with using this powerful scientific tool while cataloging their observations through photography using their very own ipads. The quality of their images is outstanding! Their final slideshows showcased a collection of all of their images such as:
 - A microscopic logo of their choosing
 - Single-celled organisms called Protists to see something alive and moving through a microscope
 - Newsprint Letter "e" to practice microscope measurement
 - Plant cells in the form of onion skin
 - Cheek cells in the form of their own cheek scraping!
- Here are some pictures of them hard at work!

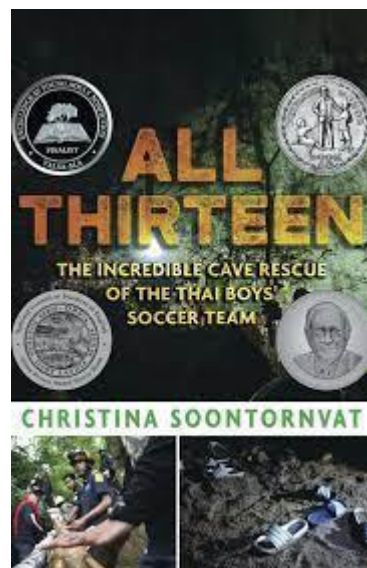




6th Grade *Discovery*

ENGLISH

- **Ms. Kuhn's English classes** kicked off the second quarter by finishing up our character unit, which focused on reading and analyzing Touching Spirit Bear. Students dove right into a writing unit and practiced their literary analysis writing skills. Students were asked to craft a claim of their choice about the novel and then prove their claim through the use of reasons, text evidence, and analysis.
- Towards the end of the quarter, students began a nonfiction reading unit that had them reading All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys Soccer Team. The unit focused on how to best annotate and take notes on a narrative nonfiction text as well as discerning central ideas, critically questioning the author's point of view and perspective, building vocabulary, summarizing to create a concise version of the text, and synthesizing texts.
- The nonfiction unit will continue with a research component in which students will read a biography and prepare a google slides presentation on the person they research. They will also refresh their memories about text features, author's purpose etc.

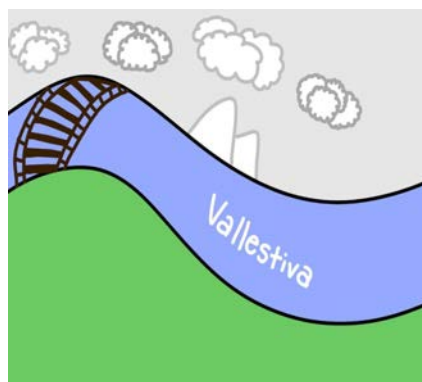


SOCIAL STUDIES

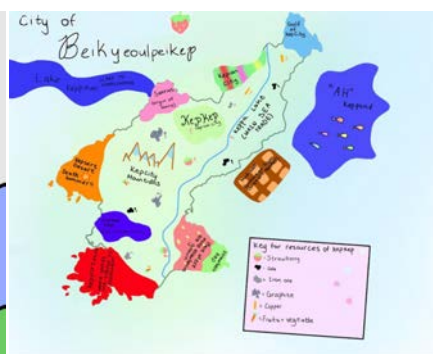
Ms. Bazzani's Social Studies 6

- During our study of prehistory, the time before writing was invented, students learned what it was like to live a nomadic lifestyle, during the Paleolithic period
- Students learned that the Agricultural Revolution contributed to the development of civilizations and was the catalyst for the rise of cities, government, religion, writing, social classes, public works, and arts and architecture
- Students, using their knowledge of civilization features, created their own city-states, including a map, laws, and a flag (see samples below)
- Students donned their CSI hats and tried to solve an ancient mystery; who killed Ötzi the Iceman? Spoiler alert: The 5,300 year-old mystery remains unsolved!

Sample 1 - City-state: Vallestiva & flag



Sample 2 - City-State: Beikyeoulpeikep & flag



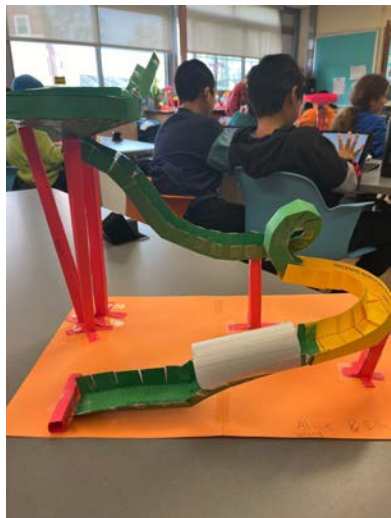


6th Grade *Discovery*

SCIENCE

Ms. Whidden's and Ms. Stratakis' Science 6

- The students worked as engineers to build working roller coasters, with hills and loops, out of cardstock. They used their knowledge of potential and kinetic energy when planning and creating their design. Their roller coasters were considered successful if a marble was able to complete the entire track.
- We kicked off the matter and chemistry unit by making lava lamps using Alka-Seltzer and oil. The students observed that some liquids and solids can be combined to form a gas.
- The students learned about phases of matter and phase changes. At the end of the unit, the students were able to draw models on the atomic level that illustrated the composition of atoms in each phase of matter and during a phase change.



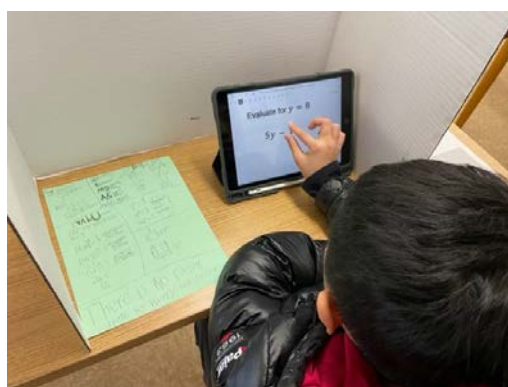


6th Grade *Discovery*

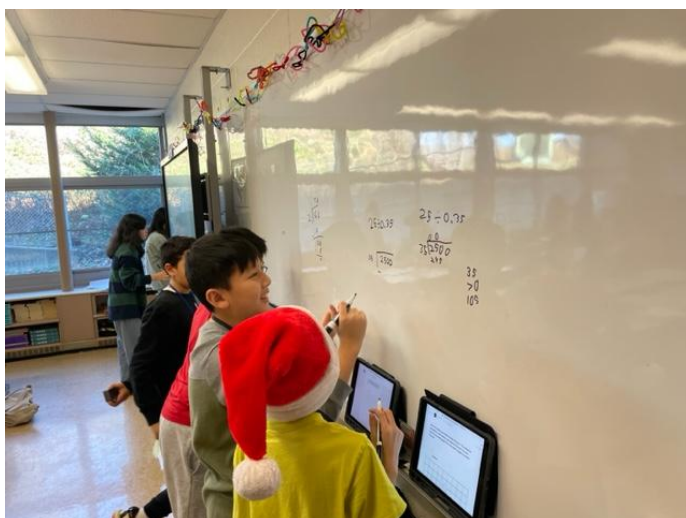
MATH

Mr. Hoshino's Math 6 and EP Math Class:

Math 6 students tackled a variety of topics in Quarter 2 including operations with fractions and decimals, powers and exponents, as well as fractions, decimals, and percents. Students in Math 6 worked collaboratively to tackle evaluations involving exponents. This quarter, we also introduced the opportunity to create and use a math reference sheet for class work and tests. Many have taken this opportunity to write reminders, tips, and important strategies for each unit of study.



EP Math students navigated many topics including ratios and rates, fractions, decimals and percents, and operations with fractions and decimals. Students took on the challenges of solving problems with two sets of ratios, as well as solving algebraic equations with signed fractions and decimals. Students worked collaboratively to explore the relationship among fractions, decimals, and percents using Desmos, an interactive platform for math. In class, students have taken advantage of opportunities to move around the room and work in small groups.





6th Grade Endeavor

Students on Team Endeavor are encouraged to share their Google Classroom assignments with their families and celebrate the milestones they reach this year!



SCIENCE

Mr. Hatten's Science 6 - Slime Lab! Chemical Engineering!

Students in Mr. Hatten and Mrs. Piperno's grade 6 science class have been busy learning the basics of matter and chemistry through the slime lab. At the start of the unit, students were asked to develop their own criteria for the "best slime" using the engineering design process. Students learned about the properties of matter by making three different slime recipes. Based on their criteria, students then researched their own recipes, created advertisements (which molecular models) and made their designer slimes on the final day! At the end of the unit, students reflected on their creations by comparing them to their criteria as chemical engineers. Students had a blast exploring the chemical compositions and observing the chemical reactions that they created while being chemical engineers!





6th Grade *Endeavor*

SEL LEARNING / FLEX

- Students visited Lakeville to teach 5th graders about news literacy, specifically how to avoid clickbait. In preparation, students had to work collaboratively, take initiative, show flexibility, and be creative. They also learned valuable presentation and leadership skills. Pictured are Team Endeavor students teaching Lakeville students at Lakeville!



SOCIAL STUDIES

Ms. Rumble's, Mr. Cohn's, and Mr. Nahoum's Social Studies 6:

- Students examined the Paleolithic and Neolithic periods, learning how humans adapted to their environments and innovated to move from hunter-gatherers to permanent settlements.
- Students learned about the eight features of all civilizations and thought about what society would be like without those features. They worked as groups to create a poster for each feature.
- Students were transported to Ancient Mesopotamia to investigate the cradle of civilization...the Fertile Crescent. They learned about early governments, religion, the importance of geography, and social classes.





6th Grade Endeavor

MATH

- **Mr. Cohn's EP Math** students revisited fraction multiplication problems. You can see them working diligently on their work with clear focus. But, they can divert their attention away to wave hi to Mr. Cohn.



- **Mr. Cohn's Math 6 Classes** were hard at work with fraction multiplication, grappling with multiplying numerators and denominators and simplifying the results. Some were using visual aids such as bar models and area models to better grasp the fraction multiplication process and it helped transition into dimensional analysis. You can see some of the students helping their peers better grasp these concepts.



ENGLISH

Mrs. Rumble's English 6:

- Students continued their exploration of character while delving into the world of Refugee by Alan Gratz and Finding Junie Kim by Ellen Oh. Students explored setting as it impacts the characters and their motivations.
- Students chose their own independent reading novels and created one-pagers to creatively demonstrate their understanding of character.
- Students read Other Words for Home by Jasmine Warga. Ms. Warga will be the SMS visiting author in the spring and she opened the students' eyes to the experience of some immigrants in America.
- Students began the literary response writing unit by analyzing Shel Silverstein's The Giving Tree and supporting complex ideas about the characters in that timeless picture book.





6th Grade *Innovation*

MATH

Math with Ms. Conlon:

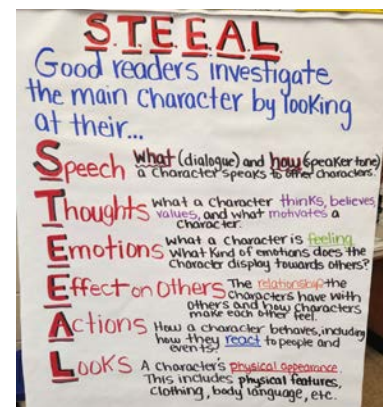
- Our math curriculum provides the educational resources that will enable students to become the problem solvers of the 21st century. We have been stressing problem-solving skills while working through multiple layered word problems.
- We are working on a fraction unit where students learn to multiply and divide. Students don't just compute, they solve problems presented to them as a word problem. When they have learned both skills, they need to decipher whether multiplying or dividing will get them the answer they need. Students also learned to draw models to represent multiplying and dividing fractions. The focus this year is on real life, multi-layered, problem-solving applications.
- To see what we do each day in class, please ask your child to see the Classkick notes. Also, check in with Google Classroom on a regular basis.



ENGLISH

English with Ms. Ganz:

- Students dove right into their Personal Narrative unit by gathering ideas to create their own story about one important or significant moment in their life.. Students were challenged to create a personal memory including lots of details.
- Students have moved on to our character unit using Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelson. They will be focusing on reading and analyzing how an author creates believable characters. Using the novel, Touching Spirit Bear, Ms. Ganz's English classes have been doing a deep study of character and learning to consider more complex character traits, investigating how setting shapes characters, and analyzing how characters are vehicles for themes.





6th Grade *Innovation*

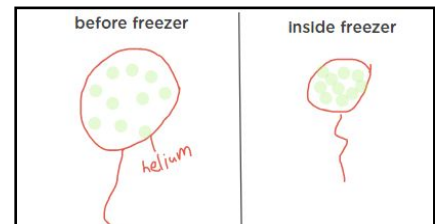
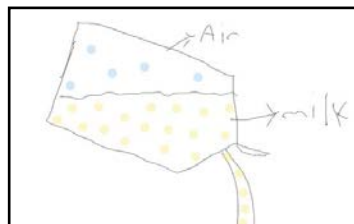
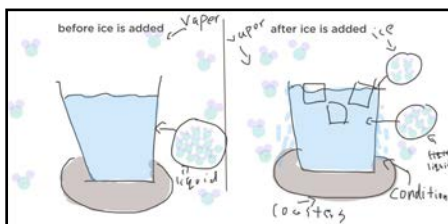
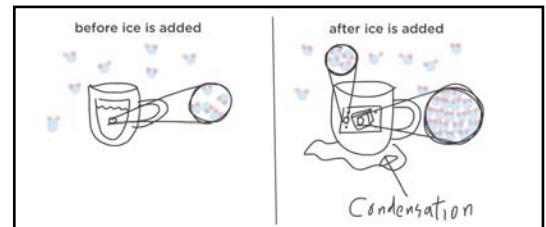
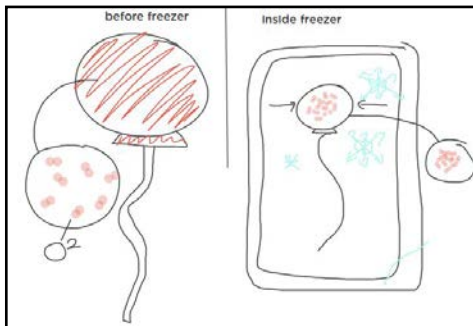
SCIENCE

Science with Mrs. Lipetz:

- Scientists on the Team Innovation acted as engineers as they built working roller coasters out of paper. They had to use what they learned about kinetic & potential energy to design their coaster and they used a marble to represent the passengers to make sure the ride was safe!



- Students also learned about the phases of matter and how matter changes phases. We used drawings to represent atoms and molecules and we answered real world questions about how certain phenomena occur. Examples include why we get potholes, why a glass 'sweats', why balloons shrink when we bring them outside on a cold day, and more!



- We are now diving deeper into Chemistry – we are learning more about elements, atoms, molecules, and compounds. Ask your child to pass the Sodium Chloride!



6th Grade *Innovation*

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies with Ms. Parnell:

- Using Google Earth, Social Studies students participated in a virtual reality field trip to visit the locations of several remaining ziggurats around the world. A ziggurat is a Sumerian temple built to honor the god or goddess of a particular city. One of the most famous Ziggurats is The Ziggurat of Ur which is in present day Iraq. It was built during the 21st Century BCE (Early Bronze age).
- In groups, students relied on their knowledge of geography and elements of ancient civilizations to design their own city-state. They strategized solutions for some of the common problems early civilizations faced. Social Studies students used information provided about the climate and natural resources in their assigned region to make the best decisions to meet the needs of citizens in their city-state. Students also designed flags and created artifacts that represented their city-states.





Art Department

ART 6 - GRADE 6

Students in **Ms. Smith's sixth grade classes** learned ceramic slab construction techniques as they created intricate abstract relief sculptures using geometric and organic shapes.



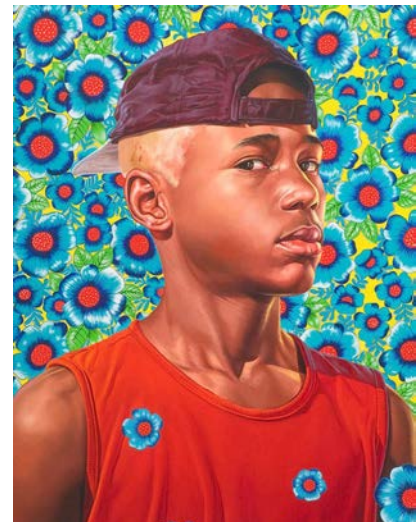
Clay relief sculptures ready for glazing.

Ms. Smith's students created self portraits inspired by American portrait painter Kehinde Wiley. The background contains objects that symbolize the students' personality and interests.





Art Department



Ms. Krupala's sixth-grade class recently created clay tiles with radial symmetry. Their intricate designs showcased a blend of creativity and skill, forming unique and captivating patterns.





Art Department

ART 7 - GRADE 7

Ms. Smith's students learned how to mix neutral colors by playing Color Rush, a color mixing challenge!



Next, they mastered the art of Impressionism by painting landscapes with quick painterly brushstrokes and broken color.



Ms. Krupala's seventh graders recently completed their dive into paint and color. Their landscape paintings beautifully captured the essence of Impressionist brushwork and inventive color schemes.





Art Department

Ms. Marciana's 7th grade students learned color theory and color mixing by creating their own Thematic Color Wheels.



Students then used their newly learned painting skills to create landscape paintings inspired by the Impressionist movement.





Art Department

ART FOUNDATIONS - GRADE 8

Art Foundation Trip to The Guggenheim Museum in NYC December on 19th and 20th.

Students went on a guided tour of the museum's current exhibitions, *Going Dark: The Contemporary Figure at the Edge of Visibility* and *Only the Young: Experimental Art in Korea, 1960s–1970s*. They also had time to explore the museum's permanent collection.

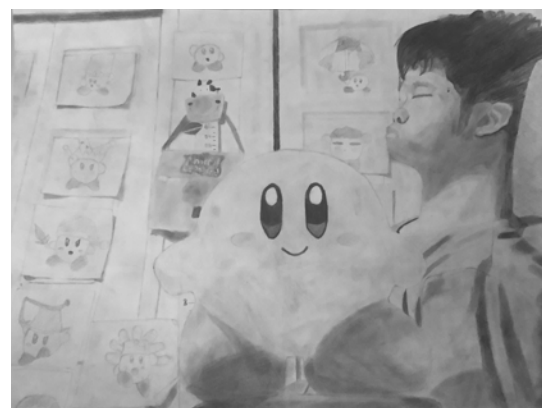




Art Department

Portrait Drawing

After learning about contemporary artist's Nikki S. Lee and Jordan Casteel, students in **Ms. Smith's Art Foundations classes** drew compelling self portraits, some with friends and family to reveal an aspect of their identity.



Charcoal Animal Drawing

Ms. Marciana's 8th grade Art Foundations students learned observational drawing techniques to create realistic renderings of a chosen animal in charcoal.





Art Department

December and January Artists of the Month





Art Department



**January Artist of the Month -
Ruhan Mizra, Grade 7**

Winter Art Show

The SMS Winter Art Show was on display during the week of December 11th. The exhibit displayed student artwork in a range of media from all grade levels.





Family & Consumer Sciences

As the pictures illustrate, students are engaged in both hands-on and conventional methods of learning in both **Mrs. Stefandl's**, **Mrs. Giannone's** and **Ms. Panzarino's** classes.

6th Grade - Sewing Unit



7th Grade - Sewing Unit

Tote Bag - Mrs. Giannone and Ms. Panzarino's 7th Grade





Family & Consumer Sciences



8th Grade

Mrs. Stefandl's 8th Grade Chefs *Chefs Chopped Competition*





Family & Consumer Sciences



Chefs Thanksgiving Day 1 and Day 2

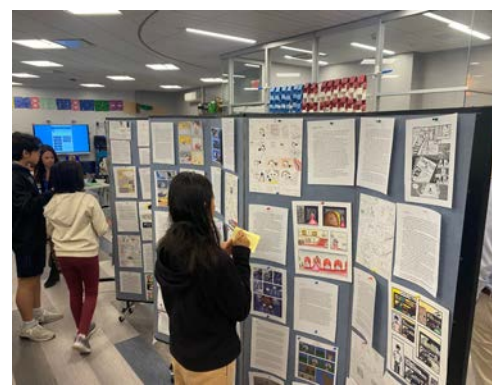




Library



SMS celebrated the Mexican holiday el Dia de los Muertos by making decorations and ofrendas in the library's makerspace.



Students in English classes visit the library to simply read!

Mrs. Dervin's English classes share their illustrated short stories in the library.



Library

Veterans Day in the library! Students in Team Hero get the opportunity to sit with US Veterans to hear their stories and ask them questions.



The library hosted "Flex-Giving" and other holiday-inspired team building activities.....

and Makerspace crafts, such as green-screen Holiday cards!



Music Department

The Music Department was proud to present two very successful **Winter Concerts** in December. Over half of the students in the school participated in the bands, orchestras and choruses over the two concerts. Mr. Schwartz, Ms. Coppola and Mr. Virgilio were extremely pleased with the level of play, the level of maturity and the level of poise shown by our 6th, 7th and 8th graders. We are all excited to continue our momentum and bring our school two spectacular Spring Concerts in May!

The **Senior Chorus** traveled to Parkville for its annual Holiday Concert for the Kindergartners. Over 80 of our 7th and 8th graders sang (with the Kindergartners enthusiastically joining in!) holiday classics. The mood was so much fun that even Frosty the Snowman came in to dance along!

Friday in the Front will already have its 30th presentation of the year on January 26th! That's 30 concerts in just 20 weeks! We've seen pianists, violinists, singers, guitarists, cellists, dancers and we can't wait to show South Middle even more. All these 7:55am concerts are informal and casual and are meant to blend in with the beautiful chaos of a school morning.

All our general music classes have been working studiously to create imaginative projects, compositions, and even improvisational theater games!



FRIDAY IN THE FRONT





Music Department





Health Department

7th Grade Health

Grade 7 health classes are busy studying nutrients and healthy food choices. We played a quick review game of Twister.

- Red: Name a Fruit
- Green: Name a Vegetable
- Blue: Name a Protein
- Yellow: Name a Carbohydrate.

The students studied the current food label and now have a better understanding of healthy food choices.

Students and families participated in the 24-hour-sugar-free challenge. We studied the new FDA food label and have a better understanding of added sugars.



8th Grade Health

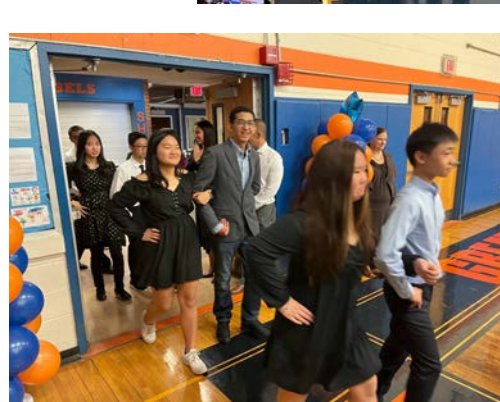
During our DISEASE UNIT students researched and presented topics to their classes.





Physical Education / Athletics

Dancing Classrooms



Messages

8th

Team A
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Teams & Clubs

Special Events



Physical Education / Athletics



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Physical Education / Athletics



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Technology Department

6th grade students are working on their mass production unit. They are currently decorating their projects with lasers! They are using the lasers to engrave pictures and their names on to the base of the project. After they are done decorating they will apply a protective coat of wax to keep the project protected for years to come.

7th grade students are designing and constructing air powered racing cars and wind turbine blades. There are several competitions going on to see which car is the fastest and which wind turbine can produce the most amount of electricity.



Mr. Mead works with students who are learning how to use the scroll saw.



7th graders are making their compressed air cars.

8th grade students are designing and constructing toothpick bridges to see who can put together the most efficient bridge. The bridges will be crushed by gym weights and sand. The sand is piled up and weighed after the bridge collapses.

In **Mr. Beutel's Woodworking elective**, students are working hard on finishing their cutting board projects. Students in the class made unique cutting boards in custom patterns and shapes using hardwoods. They used the CNC routers in the department to incorporate custom designs into the project.



8th grader Sam B. cuts his project into shape



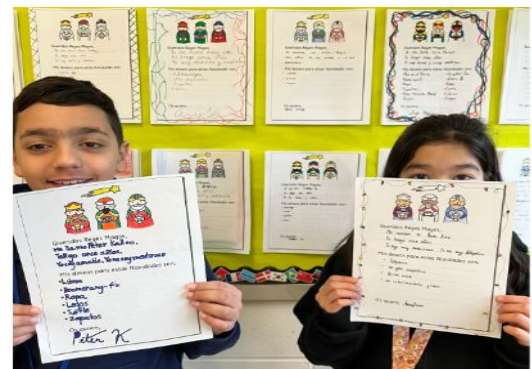
World Language & ENL

SPANISH 6

Mr. La Greca and Ms. Valli's Spanish 6 students went to the library makerspace to participate in fun activities to celebrate *Día de los Muertos*. Students created papel picado (decorative perforated paper), ofrendas (alters), sugar skulls, and more!



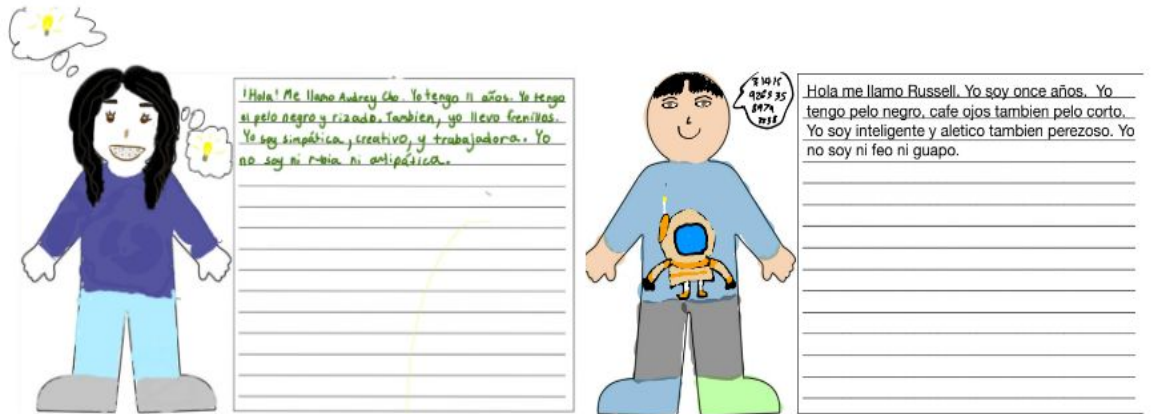
Ms. Valli's Spanish 6 students wrote letters to *Los Reyes Magos* just as many Hispanic children do around the holidays.





World Language & ENL

To use characteristics learned in class, **Ms. LaFaye's Spanish 6** students completed a mini-project where they drew a picture of themselves and gave a little description about what they're like!



SPANISH 7

Mr. La Greca and Ms. Valli's Spanish 7 students went to the library makerspace to participate in fun activities to celebrate *Día de los Muertos*. Students created *papel picado* (decorative perforated paper), *ofrendas* (altars), sugar skulls, and more!

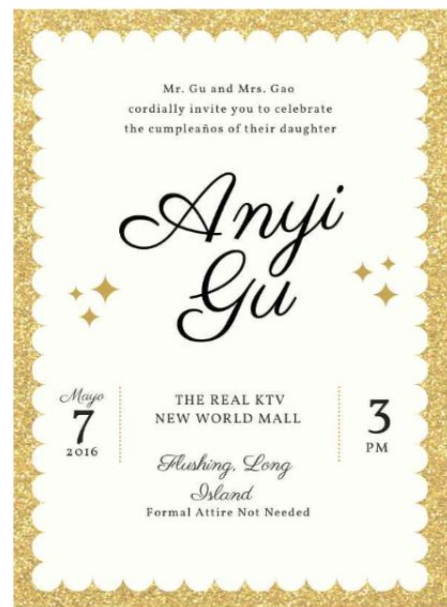




World Language & ENL

SPANISH 8

During their unit on *fiestas*, students in **Dr. Pipala and Ms. LaFaye's Spanish 8** class created invitations to a party and engaged in conversations with their classmates to accept or decline these invitations. Many students were very creative with the type of party they were hosting!





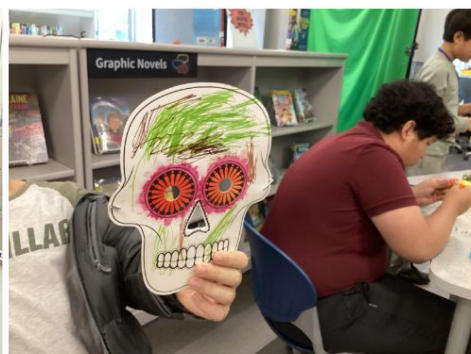
World Language & ENL

SPANISH I

Students in **Dr. Pipala's Spanish I** class completed a project in which they had to act as an online meteorologist in a city of their choice. Students used the Explain Edu app to create a voiceover forecast video for the hourly and five day forecast in their chosen city. Students even created their own Spanish-language weather channel name and logo!



Mr. La Greca, Ms. Valli, and Dr. Pipala's Spanish I students went to the library makerspace to participate in fun activities to celebrate *Día de los Muertos*. Students created *papel picado* (decorative perforated paper), *ofrendas* (altars), sugar skulls, and more!





World Language & ENL

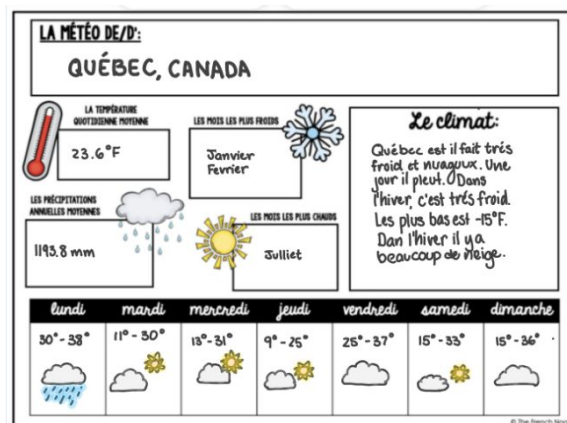
FRENCH 6

Ms. Smith's 6th grade French students have quickly become proficient in their language skills. They are able to ask and answer a variety of questions. Students learned how to count in French and learned about the cultural differences between French and American phone numbers. Students enjoyed playing the game "onze" to practice their counting skills in French.



FRENCH 7

Ms. Smith's 7th grade French students have become meteorologist experts by researching the weather in different French cities and francophone countries then presented the forecast to their classmates. Students also reviewed the house and home unit by "moving to Paris"! Students researched available houses and apartments to buy based on the amenities.



MON
DOMICILE
IDÉAL!

MON APPARTEMENT EST SITUÉ AU 9ÈME ARRONDISSEMENT DE PARIS(75009)ET IL COÛTE €1,500,000. MON APPARTEMENT A CINQ PIÈCES, TROIS CHAMBRES, UNE SALLE DE BAINS, UN SALON, UN SOUS-SOL, ET UNE TERRASSE-BALCON. J'ADORE MON APPARTEMENT PARCE QU'IL Y A UN GRAND SALON, UNE BAIGNOIRE DANS LA SALLE DE BAINS, UN SOUS-SOL, UNE GRANDE SALLE À MANGER, UNE CUISINE AVEC UN FOUR, UN BEAU REZ-DE-CHAUSSEE ET UN BALCON/ TERRASSE. C'EST IDÉALEMENT SITUÉ, PRÈS DES MÉTROS, DES BOULANGERIES, ET DES PHARMACIES.



PIC-COLLAGE



Mon appartement idéal!

Mon appartement idéal est situé au 7ème arrondissement. Il coûte €1,945,000. Il y a 5 pièces dans mon appartement. Il y a trois chambres. Il y a une cuisine, une salle à manger, et un séjour. Aussi, il y a deux toilettes. J'aime le balcon et les fenêtres parce qu'il y a de la lumière naturelle. La cuisine a un évier, un four et une cuisinière. Le séjour a un canapé et une cheminée. Il a une ascenseur.

PIC-COLLAGE

Messages

8th

Team A
Team B
Team C

7th

Hero
Voyager
Wonder

6th

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Endeavor
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Special Events



World Language & ENL

FRENCH 8

Ms. Smith's 8th grade students ended the first unit of study by designing games to teach others how to use the past tense in French. A variety of unique games were created, and students have fun playing each other's games. We have also begun our travel unit where students are learning how to communicate in real life travel situations.



CHINESE 6

Students in **Ms. Zhang's Chinese 6 class** designed and handmade the 2024 calendar all in Chinese to celebrate the New Year.



Students in **Ms. Zhang's Chinese 6 class** rolled dice and played a Chinese version of Snakes and Ladders. The students played this board game in groups of three. They helped each other recognize the Chinese characters and phrases in the game.



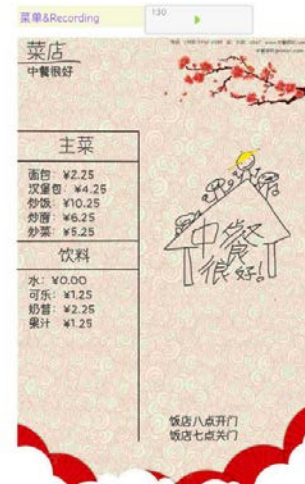
World Language & ENL

Ms. Zhaomu's Chinese 6 students have delved into expressing more about self-introductions. They completed their project of introducing themselves, and the students' presentations were all fantastic. After the New Year, the students have shifted their focus to learning personality-related adjectives. Now, not only have they mastered describing the appearance of family members, but they also know how to depict the personalities of their family members. Additionally, they've used beautiful adjectives to express their own personalities.



CHINESE 7

The students in **Ms. Wang's class** recently completed a "Restaurant Menu" project using Classkick. They designed a menu to improve the cafeteria menu based on their preferences. The menu included the name of the restaurant, different food and beverages, prices in Chinese currency, and basic information about the restaurant, and the students added a personal touch by handwriting Chinese characters, adding recordings, and decorations.





World Language & ENL

The students in **Ms. Wang's Chinese 7 class** recently tasted Chinese food. As we delve into our Food unit, we are currently exploring the delicious world of Chinese cuisine. To enrich our learning experience, students participated in an activity where they had Chinese Steamed Pork Buns during our Chinese class.



CHINESE 8

Students in **Ms. Zhang's Chinese 8 class** participated in the "My SMS Teacher" creative poster competition. In the poster, students needed to describe the appearance and personality of one of their teachers and the courses he/she teaches. They gave the location of the teacher's classroom and included the teacher's hobbies. Students used many details and wrote it all in Chinese!

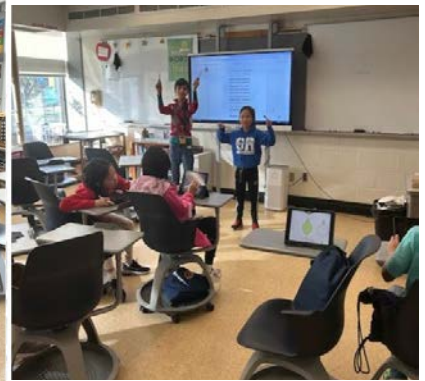




World Language & ENL

LATIN 6

Our **Latin 6 students** were introduced to the Roman holiday *Saturnalia*. They learned about the aspects of the celebration and sang Roman carols!



LATIN 7

Throughout the year, **Ms. Tobin's Latin 7 students** have been preparing for the National Latin Exam. An in-class Certamen (a quick-response competition style used by the Junior Classical League), which assessed knowledge of the entire Roman world, fostered excitement and provided a fun learning opportunity for all.

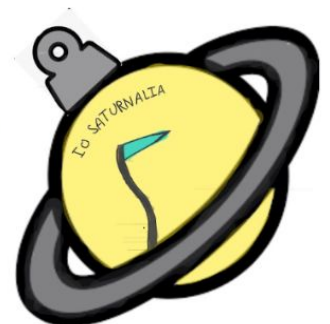
IV. Vir a senator ad templum
properare temptat.

- A. hurries
- B. to hurry
- C. hurry
- D. was hurrying



LATIN 8

Latin 8 students investigated the ancient Roman roots of December holiday traditions, and designed ornaments to highlight that the custom of exchanging small gifts, especially ornaments, goes all the way back to *Saturnalia*!





World Language & ENL

ENL

Our ENL students took a trip to the Parkwood Skating Rink. Students of all skating abilities enjoyed their time on the ice. A highlight of the trip was watching the students help each other learn to skate! returning to South Middle, students watched video footage of Great Neck's own, Sarah Hughes, as she competed to win the ladies figure skating gold medal in the 2002 Olympics.



After some pizza at the ice rink, students also visited the main branch of the Great Neck Library for a guided tour to learn about all of the amazing services and programs available to them after school!



Students in the co-taught ENL classes participated in a *Magic Treehouse* unit. Together as a class we read a book from the *Magic Treehouse* series. Students then read a second book from the series in book clubs. We analyzed the patterns of the books and then students wrote their own short stories in the likeness of a Magic Treehouse book. The culminating activity was a publishing party where students read their classmates's stories, critiqued them and enjoyed hot chocolate!



Students in the stand alone ENL classes continue their identity unit by learning how to describe themselves and others. We reinforce these skills with a competitive game of "Guess Who?"



Teams & Clubs

LEGO CLUB

Lego club members had fun participating in holiday structures and the tallest tower challenge! Next up are flags and famous landmarks for our Cultural Heritage Celebration!





Teams & Clubs

COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE

Community Action has spent the past couple of months giving back. Through the goodwill of our members and the community we have:

- sponsored a winter holiday toy drive for Senator Jack Martins
- donated much-needed diapers to the Long Island Coalition for the Homeless
- supported SADD through the donation of hot chocolate for the INN
- made snowflakes to decorate SMS hallways for the winter solstice
- began making Valentine's Day cards for the Valentines for Vets initiative sponsored by Assemblywoman Gina L. Sillitti





Teams & Clubs

RIBBON & LION DANCE

This year our Ribbon Dance performance will reach an unprecedented number of people. So we divided the dancers into three groups. The dancers are actively rehearsing for the cultural heritage performance. In order to raise funds to buy performance dresses for each dancer, we also held a bake sale.



This year our lion dance performance will be performed without musical accompaniment for the first time. We were lucky enough to have the high school's Chinese drums provide the soundtrack for the lion dance. The students are carefully preparing for the cultural heritage performance.





Teams & Clubs

PEER LEADERS

The Peer Leaders had an active second quarter. They kicked things off by assisting with purple sales which helped raise money for Relay For Life, sponsored by the American Cancer Society. The start of a new quarter tends to bring about some academic challenges for students across all grade levels. Peer Leaders have graciously volunteered to tutor their peers and will continue to do so as the year progresses. The students wrapped up the quarter by meeting and breaking into small groups to begin exploring meaningful topics which will be presented to sixth grade homerooms in early April. These presentations usually discuss academic and social themes relevant to the entire school population. The Peer Leaders jumped right in with their ideas and are eager to present to the 6th graders as they continue to acclimate themselves to middle school life. We look forward to those presentations and other exciting school-wide events that will take place during the second half of the year.

GAMERS UNPLUGGED

Gamers Unplugged members have enjoyed playing some favorites like Century and Really Loud Librarians.





Teams & Clubs

CHINESE YO-YO

We're hard at work preparing for Cultural heritage! Check out these bloopers!





Cultural Heritage



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