

Report Card Reporter

December 2007

I hope that each one of you enjoy this rendition of the Report Card Reporter! In a small way, we strive to have the RCR share the generous spirit, thoughtful reflection, and academic focus that defines Lincoln Middle School. Our daily attendance is still above 95%, and with your help, we can push our average to our overall goal of 97%. Remember, we want our students in school each day to ensure consistency in their education, but when your child is sick or contagious, they (and we) will benefit from the needed rest at home. As this holiday season approaches, I am reminded of a sentiment that I once read on a card, "May your celebration of this season of holidays draw deep from the abundant joy, fierce hopes, and enduring traditions or all of our ancestors." Enjoy the chance to reconnect with family and spend time on what you value most. I look forward to the busy days that signal the end of the first semester this January. Tristan Komlos

CALENDAR of UPCOMING EVENTS

December

- 13 Coffee with the Principal (8:30AM)
Band Instrumental Concert
- 18 Elementary Music Tour
- 19 Magic Mountain Field Trip (8th grade, all day)
School Site Council Meeting (3:15PM, room 153)
- 21 Locker Cleanout day in all Homebases
- 22 Start of Winter Break

January

- 7 Back to School from Winter Break
- 10 PTSA meeting (7:00PM)
- 17 ELAC meeting (8:30AM)
Choir Concert (7:00PM)
- 18 Student Winter Dance (4:30 – 6:30PM)
- 21 Martin Luther King, Jr. HOLIDAY
- 22 Fowler Museum Field Trip (7th grade, Emerald Core)
- 23 School Site Council Meeting (3:15PM, room 153)
- 24 Fowler Museum Field Trip (7th grade, Gold Core)
- 25 Last Day of Semester One
Fowler Museum Field Trip (7th grade, Aqua Core)
Elemental Strings Midyear Recital (7 – 9PM)
- 28 Pupil Free Day—No school for students
- 29 First Day of Semester Two
3rd Rotation begins in exploratory classes
- 31 Adelante a la Universidad / Preparing for College—ELAC (7:00PM)

February

- 1 Holt ELA Test in 7th grade English classes
- 4 Report Cards for First Semester go home through Homebase classes
CJSF Presentations in 7th grade homebase
Applications for CJSF available in the Counseling Office
Applications for NJHS available in the Counseling Office

Purple Core (6th)

English--Student-Led Conferences on November 15 were a great success with close to 100% participation! Thanks to Purple Core parents and students for their hard work and support! Students are currently reading the novel *Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbitt in English classes. We have only class sets, so it is recommended that students borrow or buy a copy of the book to keep at home or in their backpack. English teachers just ask that students not read ahead of where we are in class.

History--We have finished our study of the ancient Hebrews and are now studying ancient India. After studying the geography of the region as well as its religions of Hinduism and Buddhism, we will launch our yearly rendition of the play "Buddha Walks," where every student has a part! Students will write their own poetry for the play as well as design a cool headdress/mask. Parents are invited to the play's performance (one for each humanities class) in January.

Mathematics--Ms. Finsten's classes are continuing their study of fractions and integers in preparation for their Mid-Year Assessment in January.

Science—Mr. Johnston's classes completed the beach packet which showed their knowledge of our field trip to Santa Monica Beach. Students are now immersed in environmental studies, which will segue way nicely into water studies.

Physical Education--Ms. Burack promises tons of fun with Frisbees, stunts, and tumbling units all coming your way!

Sixth Grade-Wide Activities--The Knott's Berry Farm reward trip is scheduled for Friday, February 8. Kids, get set for a relaxing day with your Purple, Bronze, and Silver Core buddies—and teachers!

The Lincoln Loves Bangladesh donation drive from Monday through Friday, December 26 through 30 was SO successful! Thousands of items-- canned food, warm blankets and clothes, toys, and medicine--were donated by our kind Lincoln students and family. "Wherever there is a human being, there is an opportunity for kindness." ~Seneca

Bronze Core(6th)

Our Bronze Core sixth graders have been thoroughly engaged in preparing and presenting their very first Student-Led Conference on November 28th, 2007. An absolute success! In HUMANITIES, Mrs. DeBeech, Mrs. Levy, and Mrs. Moazzez have enjoyed providing this valuable experience for their students in an effort to promote the skills of responsibility, goal-setting, and self-evaluation in their students. Reading the core novel *Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbitt has been an ongoing activity in English classes. Students have also been working towards completing Unit 2 in their history book, History Alive! The Ancient World.

In MATH, Mr. Marcos and his students have been investigating the wonderful world of integers.

In SCIENCE, students have been discussing how the earth's oceans and atmosphere were formed. Their next unit of study will be how mountains are destroyed.

Silver Core(6th)

Silver Core is proud to report that our Student-Led Conferences were a huge success. Students and their parents met this past Wednesday and the students did an outstanding job sharing their academic progress and future goals. We also just announced our first quarter All-Stars. Congratulations to the distinguished group of individuals who remained detention and guided study free.

In math, Silver Core students are currently studying fraction operations. They continue to not only learn how to perform the operations, but also why they are necessary. Science students have just finished a unit on Ecology and they are just beginning a unit on energy and material resources. We read Dr. Suess' The Lorax to kick off the unit and help us all realize the need to "speak for the trees." Students will learn the advantages & disadvantages of energy resources and the importance of conservation.

In our Silver Core history classes, we have just wrapped up a study of Ancient Egypt and Kush. We took a guided tour down the Nile River in our feluccas and created interactive dramatizations of what daily life was like for Egyptians in each social class. From Egypt, we will be traveling east to the ancient land of Canaan to study the early Hebrews and settlement of Israel. Once we leave Israel, we move farther east and begin a study of the settlement of India and the beginnings of Buddhism, including a performance of *Buddha Walks*. Be on the lookout for an invitation to join us in January!

Silver Core English classes have just finished a study of punctuation that we completed along side of our preparations for Student-Led Conferences. In the next 6 weeks, we will be doing a study of some 6th grade Spelling Killers, as well as a novel focus on *Cleopatra: Daughter of the Nile*. Be sure to ask your kids about the interesting family life of Cleopatra!

Mr. Underwood's PE classes have just finished their racquet unit and are now entering the "world famous" dance unit. The first dance challenge (2 weeks ago) was a vogue "hard dance" while the second dance was a fast-paced line dance to the tempo of footloose. We are currently on dance #3: a hip-hop inspired dance. When students complete this phase they are to create their own original dance with a team. "Parents Beware"....your child may be asking you for some dance moves.

7th Grade (Aqua, Emerald, Gold Cores)

It's a very busy time to be a 7th grader. In math we've been working on percents, fractions and decimals. Parents, ask your students to calculate tip when you go out to eat over the holidays! Have them help you estimate expenses on shopping trips by considering taxable items....

In science, we began the adolescent development unit December 3rd, so that should make for all sorts of interesting dinner time conversation or for interesting car rides. Next, we'll head into Genetics and talk about what makes you...you.

History is finishing up a unit on Islam, and preparing for our trip to the Fowler Museum at UCLA in January (parents interested in chaperoning can contact the Humanities teachers in each Core) which will be centered on African culture.

In English, students are starting or working on the Who Am I. Get ready for questions about your family tree and your roots. The holidays are a great time to discuss the traditions and values your family holds dear.

Finally, our P.E. department will soon be heading into the Rock Climbing Unit, and continues to discuss agility and endurance, as well as prepare for the Fitness Gram testing. Take some family hikes together and have your seventh grader share what they know.

Happy Holidays
Seventh Grade Teachers

8th grade (Blue, Copper, Red Cores)

On November 26th, 27th, and 28th, eighth grade students led their families through their analytical writing process. As a follow-up, all students will soon be rewriting their "Tell-Tale Heart" essays - based on discussions that took place during these conferences. Students will then construct a mobile to represent (in a concrete way) the higher level thinking required for the writing of that essay. Eighth grade English teachers wish to thank all of our students and their families for working so hard to make this event a success!

The 8th grade math teachers recently attended the California Mathematics Council in Palm Springs and discovered many new techniques for teaching math creatively. Mr. Montanez would like to tell parents of 8th grade.

Special Ed students that Special Ed progress reports were sent home with students sometime between November 26 and November 30. If you haven't received one, ask your child or contact Mr. Montanez.

The 8th grade is looking forward to our first grade level field trip to Magic Mountain on December 19 where students will study force and motion as it relates to their physics unit in science class.

The registration deadline for the 8th grade Travel Club trip to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida has been extended to December 15th. It's going to be a blast. Please contact Mrs. O'Brien at obrien@smmusd.org with questions.