

March Principal Report Pennfield Middle School



MARCH is National Reading Month!

grade	Female	Male	Grand Total
6	76	80	156
7	87	81	168
8	85	86	171
Grand Total	248	247	495

Academics

In 7th grade science with Mrs. Arnswald, students are working on waves. Students have been researching different types of waves and will teach this information to other students in the class.

In Mrs. Bravo's Math 8 class, students are in their geometry unit. Students are learning unique characteristics about 3-D shapes. They are also making nets of 3-D shapes which will lead them into surface area. To help understand nets, the students each brought in a rectangular prism from home (i.e. cereal box, tissue box, etc.) and they cut the edges in different ways to create different nets for the rectangular prisms. They will save these nets and use them again once they get to surface area and volume.

During the month of March, Mr. Fowler's 7th grade Eastern Civilization class will begin their investigation of Africa. During this unit students will explore the geography and history of Africa by role playing as various European countries seeking colonization within the continent. A highlight of the unit is the focus on Darfur, Sudan. Students will examine various causes of the genocide in the Northeast African country and how the situation in Darfur is a microcosm of Africa's troubles.

In 8th grade US History, Mr. Fowler's students are continuing the Civil War unit. This month students are completing two major technology projects that focus on the war. One project involves the use of Twitter (a micro blogging tool). Students will post brief messages on their Twitter account and will be posing as a variety of Civil War characters. The purpose of the assignment is to share what life was like during the Civil War. Also, students will create a Civil War battle map on Google Earth. Student maps will include pictures from the war, information on generals and key effects of the battles, and exact geographic locations of the battles.

The 8th grade computers class has been piloting Google and Google docs. Students have been busy creating web sites to use as a portfolio. Each student will be posting the projects that they complete on this site to be reviewed by Mr. Garzelloni.

The Art 2 students have been busy creating empty bowls to donate to the Food Bank. Students have been asked to create a lidded vessel to donate from a number of themes provided from Mr. Garzelloni.

Mrs. Jordan's sixth grade ELA classes have recently completed a paperless assignment using Moodle. As a culminating activity to a Tall Tales unit, students were asked to write a short paragraph in which they used exaggeration to boast about their own abilities. They were encouraged to use their imaginations to create the biggest boast ever and then were able to score each others' writings on a scale of one to three. The students with the highest scores were declared the Biggest Bragger and Boaster of all!

Mrs. Jordan's seventh grade ELA class has been researching topics for their research report. They are currently working on note cards for their papers.

In March, history students (Simmons) are playing a role in a simulation of civilian and soldier life during the American Civil War (1861-1865). Students are taking an active part in learning about our country's worst tragedy. This war involved 3 million Americans and more than 618,000 died. In all, it is a fascinating, challenging and fun way to have students work together while role playing Americans on both sides of the war.

Eighth grade language arts students are working on the publication of an anthology of student poetry which will include writings from hopefully all eighth grade students. Each eighth grader will receive a copy of the anthology in late May/early June.

Those same eighth graders are publishing a personal book of their own favorite poems. These individual poem books will be put in each student's writing portfolio.

Several of them will be entered in one last poetry contest in April.

Mrs. White's Life Skills class has begun using 'Work Boxes' to practice job and life skills. These boxes were put together and financed by the CISD, and will stress the importance of academic, social and behavioral skills in the work place.

In 6th grade Spanish classes, students are finishing up their 4th unit for the year. For this unit's assessment the speaking portion will be a weather forecast project done in groups and presented to the class. They will create a forecast using PowerPoint/Open Office Impress and present it from memory to the class.

7th grade ELA classes are continuing their work on their research papers throughout the month of March. They are taking notes from sources they have found on the internet and in various libraries. Once their note-taking is finished they will be organizing these notes and compiling them into a rough draft and, eventually, a final draft of a formal research paper. This paper will go into their portfolio.

Students will complete their last notebook check for this grading period during the month of March. Our next Panther Day is April 14th. Students voted on the activities they would like to see on Panther Days. Special attention has been given to their choices.

Extra-curriculars

From Student Council--

Can Food Drive March 3rd – March 30th. Food will be given to the South Central Food Bank.

Talent show auditions and practices will begin this month. The final performance will take place April 14th during Panther Day at the high school.

Officer Gault came into a student council meeting on March 2nd to talk to students about Teen Cert.

Twenty–eight students and staff enjoyed an afternoon of ice skating at the K-Wings Stadium on Sunday, March 7th. The PATH classes for Fowler, Biddington, and Zima won the treat as a reward for winning medals in the Pennfield Winter Olympics.

Over 200 progress reports were picked up during our first two evenings of parent teacher conferences. The final night is Thursday, March 11th from 4:30-8:30.

Middle school students have been invited to attend a showing of the HS play, Harvey on March 19th.

Eighth graders had a class picture taken on March 2nd. The photo is displayed in the library window and in several class rooms and has become an annual event. Students can purchase the panoramic photo.

The 7th and 8th grade band and choir students performed their festival concert on March 4th in the high school auditorium.

The middle school has elected to go with Century Resources for its fundraising project next year. Middle school students will fundraise at the end of September. Raised funds are used to support student activities and field trips.

The middle school completed another lockdown drill, this one during lunch time. Students and staff did a terrific job!

In recognition of National Reading Month, students have had/will have the opportunity to participate in a bookmark making contest, DEAR time, a Camp Out, and a Diffendoofer activity.

Staff

The middle school health and wellness team consists of Mrs. White, Mrs. Herzing, Mr. Fowler, Mrs. Wise, Mrs. Carroll, Mrs. Driscoll, and Mrs. Feneley. The parent representative is Laurie LaChance.

Mrs. Feneley and Mr. Fowler will be a part of a QAR visit at Coldwater High School on March 18th and 19th.