Jacksonville Middle School

BRAVE BANNER

2nd Six Weeks

November 2008

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Special points of interest:

- Boys Basketball game here 6:00-November 10
- Girls Basketball game here 5:00-November 13
- Boys Basketball game here 6:00-November 17
- Boys Basketball game here 5:00-December 13
- Girls Basketball game here 5:00-November 20
- Girls Basketball game here 4:30-November 24
- Girls Basketball game here 4:30-December 1
- Boys Basketball game here 5:00 December 8
- Boys Basketball game here 5:00 December 15
- Thanksgiving Holidays–November 26-28
- Early Release December 19
- Christmas Holidays-December 22-January 5

JMS First Six Weeks Reward Party

United Freestyle Stunt Team came and performed on October 17 for our first reward party. Students who had no zeros, no unexcused absences, no office referrals, and no more than one step in a class were able to attend. We had around 300 students in 7th and 8th grade who met the guidelines. Way To Go Students!

RED RIBBON WEEK

JMS campus participated in Red Ribbon Week October 27-31 by allowing students and staff to alter their dress code by wearing certain items. Students and staff "put a cap on drugs" by wearing caps, they wore red shirts and showed a moment of silence for others who lost their lives due to alcohol and drugs, they said "Aloha to drugs" by wearing Hawaiian shirts, they wore their school spirit shirts to support the Braves, and they wore crazy socks to "sock it to drugs". There was also a JMS Socking It To Drugs Sock Hop Dance to end the week. Thanks to Jenny Morris and the Student Council for making Red Ribbon Week a success.

Link to Language Arts

Seventh Grade Language Arts Classes are studying a novel entitled Bearstone by Will Hobbs. The Horizon class is reading Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelsen. Both novels deal with adolescence, conflict, anger and determination. Bearstone is worth 6 points and Touching Spirit Bear is worth 9 points. Students will test the 3rd 6 wks. period and this will count toward the goal for AR testing. Students read and reported on biography books and several students presented interesting power points. Books on the states of the United States have been assigned and an oral presentation was due on Nov. 7th. Classes have been working on grammar and composition skills. Parents, please check agendas and keep your child focused on assignments and encourage reading every day as AR counts as 2 tests grades. The 3rd 6 wks. is a busy time as we are looking forward to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. JMS is a great place and we thank you for your support.

Our readers continue to "Reach for the Stars". In our first novel of the year, students experienced the American Revolution through the eyes of Jonathan. *The Fighting Ground* by AVI revealed the ravages of war and showed how it impacted everyone involved. We made a cross-curricular connection and timed it perfectly to coincide with the lessons in US History. Vocabulary continued to be another area of focus for **8th graders**. Homework assignments such as Choose the Right Word and Complete the Sentence broadened our student's vocabulary and enhanced their reading ability. In addition to our novels and vocabulary, we crossed over to the "Dark Side" for a brief time and discovered the work of Edgar Allan Poe. Poe's "Tell-Tale Heart" was a perfect read for the days before October 31st. Before reading this classic short story, students watched a brief biography on Poe's life and gained insight into the madness behind his writing. Finally, Mrs. Alexander's class (under the direction of Mrs. Strange) finished up the six weeks with *Forged by Fire* by Sharon **Draper and Mrs. Easterling's class read another book in the Bluford Series, *Secrets in the Shadows*. We are excited to see our students read, predict, infer, and discuss.**

Mrs. Brown's students have worked hard in preparation for upcoming spelling competitions. They deserve a pat on the back. The Scripps spelling list is challenging, to say the least! In addition to spelling, students will continue working with annotation and parenthetical documentation, looking closely at literary elements in short stories and novels.

HISTORY HAPPENINGS!!

The **8th graders** took their first benchmark on October 30th and now each student has an idea of what he or she needs to do to achieve success on the TAKS in the Spring. We will be enjoying lots of fun and study at the Social Studies Tutorials in November and our goal is 100% success. Mrs. Chadwick's classes had 6 week projects about the American Revolution. They made flags, maps, and dioramas. Mrs. Dennis' classes have been creating newspaper articles about the Revolution from the viewpoint of that time. Mrs. Martin's classes are working hard in the Interactive student notebooks and all 8th graders are preparing to enjoy Thanksgiving! We are studying a new nation, the United States of America, and learning how our founding fathers created our unique system of government and a constitution that is not only OUR guideline for government, but has been the model for countless other countries in the 18th and 19th centuries.

OUTSTANDING STUDENTS OF THE SIX WEEKS

Each six weeks a seventh and eighth grade girl and boy are nominated from all departments for outstanding student of the six weeks. The names are collected and four students are selected. We would like to congratulate these students for outstanding effort and citizenship.

Matthew Pierce
Suzi McCuistion

Keyuta Fuller
Kerry Day

In **Texas History** students learned how this state was claimed by Spain, France and Mexico. They have also recognized the many influences of Spain that are still evident today. Some of these are architecture, the cowboy legacy, names of places and physical features, and language. Soon they will learn how Texas became an independent republic. They will learn about the many heroes of the Texas Revolution and the infamous Battle of the Alamo.

Math Mania

7th Grade

This six weeks was focused on money, money, money. Students used their math skills to solve real-life story problems. First, they calculated unit rates and determined which item was the better buy out of two or more different sizes. Later the concept of percentages were included. Students figured sales tax and total cost of an item. They calculated discounts and sale prices. Students also found the amount of a tip that would be included with the price of a meal. The last lesson was computing the amount of commission earned based on the amount of sales that were made. This six weeks students learned how math can be used and is used outside the classroom. Please share with your child how you use math in your daily activities. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. Remember, grades are available for your review through the JISD website.

Sally Bowers Barbara Lowrie Meredith Farquharson

8th grade Math has been blazing through the TEKS this past 6 weeks. We have studied about irrational numbers, scientific notation, graphing data, and everyone's favorite, proportions! The classes have really looked at the applications of proportions to everyday life in shadow and height problems, finding percentages, and finding rates. The Algebra I students have been swamped with the applications of linear functions. They have had to come up with equations used in everyday life situations and then find the breakeven points for profit and loss. They have also had to tackle the 8th grade TEKS and learn how to solve equations with the dreaded fractions in them. We are all gearing up for our second benchmark test that will be held the week before Thanksgiving vacation. Go get 'em 8th grade!!!

Weird Science

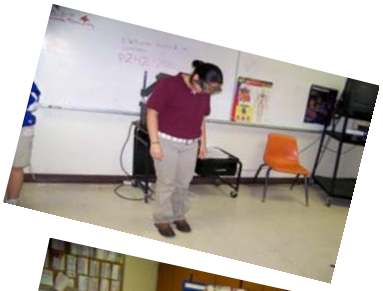
The **8th grade** Science Department will be completing our Chemistry Unit during the final 6 weeks of the first semester. Our first Benchmark test will be given on Wednesday and Thursday, November 19th and 20th. This will be over all concepts learned from the beginning of the year. Please encourage your student to do their best. This is the only way that we can determine how the students may do on the TAKS test. It will be given during the Science classes.

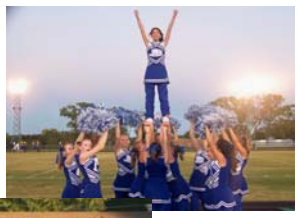
During the next 6 weeks period, the students will be beginning Objective 2 which is Living Systems and the Environment. This is always a favorite of most students.

Failure is success if we learn from it.

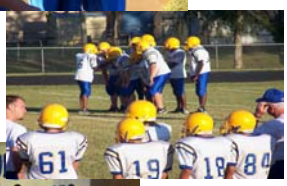
Malcolm S. Forbes

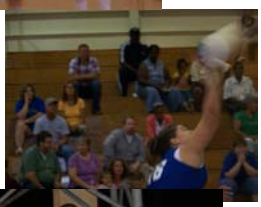
Health- In Health class we are busy learning about the harmful effects of drug use , alcoholism, and tobacco use. We are studying the diseases that are caused by using drugs,alcohol and tobacco. The students participated in wearing goggles that made them see like a person who was intoxicated . They had to try to walk a straight line while wearing the goggles that distorted their vision. The students realized that drinking was extremly dangerous to their health and safety. Next six weeks we will learn about CPR and Heart diseases . Stay healthy and safe ! Mrs. Berry -





Book Fair
JMS Library
November 10-14





Read 180– Students are reading and improving everyday! This six weeks we completed our second workshop: "When Disasters Strike." We read three stories about different natural disasters and the effects they can leave behind for everyone. For each of these stories we focused on sequence of events. We also finished our first group book study-"The Outsiders." Students are anxiously awaiting our next book!