

East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School 8th Grade Team Newsletter

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 2

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER,
2009

Grade 8 Team

Ms. Alessandro: Science	Mr. Gerken: Science
Mr. Baco: Earth Science Accelerated	Mrs. Klein: Math
Mrs. Calderera: English & Social Studies	Ms. Maltempi: Math & Science
Mr. Cimorelli: Technology	Mrs. Mulvaney: Math
Ms. Cloud: Foreign Language	Ms. Murano: English
Ms. Corapi: Home & Careers	Mr. O'Driscoll: Guidance Counselor
Mr. Cracolici: Foreign Language	Mrs. Palazzolo: Math
Mr. Cuttitta: Foreign Language	Mr. Poland: Social Studies
Mr. Duet: Science	Mrs. Singer: Assistant Principal



DATES TO

REMEMBER:

- 11/26 & 27 Thanksgiving Recess
- 12/23 Progress Reports Mailed & Holiday Festival

Social-Emotional Learning

The SEL words that will be discussed in class are:

Pride
Rebellious
Rational
Cope
Remorse

Parental Education Seminars

Nassau County parents are invited to attend a parental education series in the Lecture Hall of the Police Academy at 200 Second Avenue in Massapequa Park.

On Thursday, December 3rd at 7:00 p.m., the series will feature: *Internet Child Exploitation, Sexting and Child Safety on the Internet.*

The topic on Thursday, December 10th at 7:00 p.m. will be *Heroin and Drug Awareness.*

Please be aware that these sessions are for parents only; children will not be admitted.

Reminders:

If your child rides a bike to school, please remind him/her that it must be secured to the school bike rack with a bike lock.

Athletic events can be checked on the school website: go to www.eastrockawayschools.org.

click on "High School", "Athletics", then on "Today's Games".

Month in Review

English 8 & 8H: As we begin November, the students are starting their first novel of the year, The Pigman by Paul Zindel. While working with this novel, students will continue to develop their active reading skills and comprehension. The students will be using Post-It notes to document questions, important details and key vocabulary terms as they read, both in class and at home.

Just as with our short story unit, the students will be expected to complete reading and writing assignments at home and will be assessed on their knowledge of the novel by their journal entries, discussions in class, DIRT (Did I Read This?) questions and two formal tests in class.

Students who are having difficulty with any part of the novel are encouraged to attend extra help.

Math 8: The classes will continue working with monomials and extend their knowledge to polynomials. They will build upon

their equation solving skills. The students will continue to see spiral review built into their class work, homework, tests and quizzes. Please continue to monitor your child's homework..

Integrated Algebra Accelerated: The class has just completed a unit on sets and solving inequalities. During the remainder of November and into the first half of December, we will be learning that math is FUNctional! This will include graphing linear equations and inequalities as well as solving systems of equations both algebraically and graphically. We will complete 2009 learning how to factor polynomials.

Science 8: Students will be starting research for their science project. The topic must involve physical science. The students will be presenting their projects and will be judged for the science fair. A letter will be sent home to remind parents about the project. Students will be exploring the various phases of matter and how sub-

stances can change physically and chemically.

Earth Science Accelerated: Students will be selecting a topic and gathering information for their science fair project.

Social Studies 8 & 8H: We will be analyzing the Reconstruction of the United States and the gaining and losing of civil rights for the African Americans in the South. Students will create a primary source from the standpoint of an African-American after the civil war.

Science Fair: The annual Science Fair is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, January 14, 2010. The Science Fair provides an excellent opportunity for students to explore science topics they are interested in exploring. It provides the students with the opportunity to enhance their research skills and improve their understanding of the scientific method.

FYI

Detention

Please be aware that any student who fails to attend an assigned morning detention will be assigned an after school detention. After school detention is in addition to the morning detention which will be rescheduled. It is the students' responsibility to make their parent(s) aware of any assigned detention(s).

Hall Passes

All 8th graders have been given a page of ten hall passes which were stapled into their agendas. Students will only be given a hall pass (limit of 10 per marking period) if they have their agenda with the pass page stapled inside (emergencies are excluded). There will be an incentive offered to any student with eight or more unused passes at the end of the marking period.

Textbooks

Students only need to bring text books home if homework is assigned in them. Otherwise, students may leave these books in their lockers.

Did You Know...

Students can get homework help online via the ER Public Library? Go to www.nassaulibrary.org/eastrock

Monday-Sunday from 3:00p.m. to 9:00p.m. All you need is the barcode number from your library card.

Absences

If your child is out sick, please call the attendance office on the day of the absence. Upon returning to school, have your child turn in their absence note to the attendance office before going to class.

Please be reminded that students who miss school due to illness are required to complete any work missed during the absence. Students who wish to complete work during their absence should call a friend to find out what assignments have been given. For absences longer than three days, parents should call the main office on the morning of the third consecutive day of absence to arrange for work to be made available to be picked up.

Cyberbullying

What is Cyberbullying?

Cyberbullying is any message or publication posted or sent on-line by a minor that is intended to frighten, embarrass, harass or target another minor. Cyberbullying can take the form of instant messaging, e-mail, web-site, away message, cell phones, etc. This new form of bullying typically begins around age 9 and usually ends around 14.

What should a child do if he/she is cyberbullied?

- ◆ Stop, block & click: If cyberbullying occurs, children should be instructed to immediately stop communicating with the person cyberbullying them. They should then block the person's screen name.
- ◆ Report it: Your child should be instructed to immediately inform you if they have been threatened, harassed or bullied on line.

What should you do if your child is cyberbullied?

- ◆ Look for signs that your child may be getting cyberbullied. Some warning signs may include an unusual reluctance to use the computer or go to school.
- ◆ Stay calm.
- ◆ Let the school know so that we can be alert to any issues that may arise during the school day.
- ◆ Report the bullying to the Internet Service Provider (ISP). Provide the ISP with a copy of the message, who sent it and when. Report threats to the police.
- ◆ Check your child's away messages periodically, know their passwords, monitor their online activity. If your child has a page at a website like facebook.com, have them show it to you from time to time.

Extra Help

Mr. Baco: Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 7:20 am in room 210

Mrs. Calderera: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3:00 in room 7

Ms. Cloud: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3:00 pm in room 222

Mr. Cracolici: Monday & Tuesday mornings at 7:20 in room 1

Mr. Cuttitta: Tuesday & Friday afternoons at 3:00 p.m. in room 208

Mr. Duet: Monday and Friday at 7:20 in room 215

Mr. Gerken: Tuesday, Thursday and test days at 7:30 a.m. in room 8

Mrs. Klein: Tuesday & Friday at 7:20 a.m., test mornings and by appointment in room 4

Ms. Maltempi: Monday & Wednesday at 7:20 a.m. in room 2

Mrs. Mulvaney: Tuesday and Thursday at 7:20 in room 209

Ms. Murano: Tuesdays at 7:20 a.m. & Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. in room 6

Mrs. Palazzolo: Tuesday, Friday and test days at 7:20 in room 207

Mr. Poland: Tuesday and Friday at 2:50 p.m. in room 5

Harlem Wizards Assembly



On Tuesday, November 10th, the 7th and 8th grade teams were treated to a visit with members of the Harlem Wizards.

NYS Assessments

The *Grades 3-8 Testing Program in English/Language Arts and Mathematics: A Parent's Guide* is available online at:

www.emsc.nysed.gov/3-8/parentguide.pdf

The guide includes frequently asked questions (FAQ's), sample test questions and details on how parents can help their children prepare for the assessments.