

Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School

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Dear Baldwin Middle School Families,

As we wrap up the month of February, I feel proud of all of the hard work and dedication on the part of our students, staff, and families. It has been an unusual year for us all and yet here we are, heading into the final month of winter, having been in school for all of the 2020-2021 school year. While it has been challenging for us all, what holds true is that our community of learners continues to move forward with an eye on learning as much as we can, while also developing into stronger human beings overall.

As you read through this month's school newsletter, you will see examples of how we have continued to support our students social and emotional development and growth. Worldwide, anxiety and depression levels are through the roof for people of all ages and especially for pre-teens and young adults. Our work with Second Step focuses on providing a set of tools for our students that will help them not only cope with the challenges they face today, but will also provide them with the foundations of resilience they will need as they grow into the future. Feel free to reach out to our staff if you are interested in engaging in some of our Second Step work at home; we have plenty of resources that are available and appropriate for family use outside of school.

In addition, as we have shifted into the second semester of our school year, you will also find an update on the exciting events that are occurring in our Unified Arts classes. Please feel free to chat with your students about their UA experiences-- what is clear to me is that the arts are what truly round out the educational experiences for our children.

Thank you and I hope you enjoy our newsletter,

Mr. Dukette

Principal

Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School

February Newsletter grades 5 & 6

5th Grade Science- We have been exploring the outer planets or Uranus, Neptune and dwarf Planet



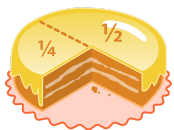
Pluto. We are also exploring how gravity would change our vertical leap on different planets and moons and tabulating that data mathematically into a bar graph.

6th Grade Science- After rescheduling several times due to weather, we finally had the third Virtual Field Trip with the DEEP on Dinosaurs of Connecticut.

The students LOVED IT! We learned about trace fossils, molds and casts as well as the different dinos of ct such as anchisaurus, dilophosaurus, coelophysis, and metoposaur. We will make our own mold fossils in class soon.



Second Step for 5th- Our fifth graders have been continuing to learn how to control their emotions when faced with different situations in life. Some of the situations we covered this past month are: managing frustration, resisting revenge, and handling put-downs. All of these require the students to calm down using the "Calm Down Steps": stop-use your signal; identify your feeling; and breathe, count, and use positive self-talk. We role play in class to practice and make the connections in our brains, making these skills more permanent.

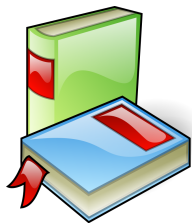


5th Grade Math- We are beginning our 4th Math Rotation with an emphasis on: fractions, patterns/coordinate grids, and whole number operations. Students are working hard to master these skills.

6th Grade Math- Students just finished their first Math Rotation. We will now be focusing on: ratios, unit rates, equivalent ratios, and the 4 quadrants of the coordinate plane.

As always, we are continuing to work on our Math Talk and Reasoning skills during our Number Talks. Students are encouraged to participate and provide evidence when giving a solution to the problem.

Second Step for 6th Grade- This month's unit is called Thoughts, Emotions, and Decisions. The goals for the unit are: to assess when and why they are feeling a strong emotion, recognize all emotions are okay, and apply a strategy for emotion management that is best for the individual student.



All 5th and 6th grade students have completed the iready reading diagnostic assessment for the winter benchmark. Overall, many students have made tremendous gains and we are all so proud of them! With your support, it is important to encourage our students to continue to do their best completing lessons in this platform. In class, we are currently focusing on identifying text structures in non-fiction text and students will be reassigned into new instructional groupings as we start up reading stations again. I appreciate all of your support as we navigate through the snow days and the challenging times we all face.

Be well and keep safe!

Mrs. Messier

5th Grade Writing Students are learning to write leads which get the readers' attention when writing an expository/ explanatory/ informational piece. Students have been practicing with partners in writing amazing facts, descriptive segments, statistics, and others. We continue our work with vocabulary.

6th Grade Writing Students are learning to write in the argument format. We have read a few articles about zoos and elephants and are analyzing a student paper. Students will write an argument essay in parts, then they will write one on their own. Hopefully, the students' arguments will be convincing. We continue our study of vocabulary.

Mr. Blonsine

Second Step Parent/Guardian Update

January and February 2020

Your **7th and 8th** graders have been participating in Second Step classes weekly during Homeroom. Second Step Social-Emotional Learning is research-based, teacher-informed, and classroom-tested to promote the social-emotional development, safety, and well-being of children from Early Learning through Grade 8 (see <https://www.secondstep.org/>).

The 8th grade class recently completed **Unit 2: Recognizing Bullying and Harassment**

Students developed skills on how to:

- Recognize bullying and harassment
- Recognize that bullying and harassment can happen due to individuals and social and environmental factors
- Recognize how the above factors contribute to bullying and harassment in their own school
- Be prepared to take safe and responsible action to disrupt factors that lead to bullying and harassment

Here are examples of some social and environmental factors students found in our school :

Social Factors: Bullies are sometimes well liked

Environmental Factors: In some places in school, less teachers are around.

In **Unit 3**, students will learn to recognize and control their **thoughts, emotions, and decisions**

The 7th grade class completed Unit 2 and will be moving on to:

Unit 3: Thoughts, Emotions, and Decisions

Students learn how to recognize strong emotions and unhelpful thoughts, and apply strategies to manage their emotions and reduce stress.

The goals of this unit include students being able to:

- Identify the underlying emotions that influence unhelpful thoughts
- Recognize unhelpful thoughts
- Use strategies for emotion management and for reframing unhelpful thoughts to make better decisions

7th grade can be a challenging time for our children and learning how to manage our emotions can have many positive benefits for your child as they grow into adults. So please feel free to ask your child how they can use this important skill to make better decisions!

To learn more about Second Step and S.E.L. please visit my homepage at:

Unified Arts

TECHNOLOGY

6th & 8th Graders are both continuing to develop their typing skills on www.typing.com and have been encouraged to practice at home 10-15 minutes every time they meet for technology class at school. Encourage your child to use the home row and good posture when practicing!



8th Graders Welcome back! 8th graders have already reviewed classroom expectations and Internet safety. Currently, we are working on our 3d printing projects! Ask your child what they are going to make!

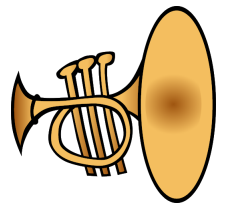
6th Grade- Hello again! 6th graders have also reviewed classroom expectations and Internet safety. Right now we are learning how to organize and display data in Google sheets! Take a look in your child's Google classroom to see their hard work!



5th Grade has begun writing their first measures of music and playing them on the piano, reinforcing right and left hand techniques, music fundamentals, rhythm, and Major and minor sounds.

7th Grade is diving deep into Guitar 101! Chords, melodies, rock songs, and modern music, the 7th grade certainly has its hands full!

BAND? YES, BAND! - you heard it right, folks. After much preparation and adjustment, the BMS Band returns this month for grade 6-8. With special protocols in place for everyone's safety and a remote player option, the band is poised for its first rehearsals coming soon! Get ready to rock!





Baldwin
Health & Physical Education



Technology in the gym!



WOW!



Students are...

- ★ using Flipgrid to record their skills!
- ★ reviewing and assessing their skills!
- ★ making goals!



3 of those basketballs went in?!?!



Guardian & Child Nutrition Challenge!

Circle the product with the most FAT per serving!



Answer on:

mrhilleducatorportfolio.weebly.com

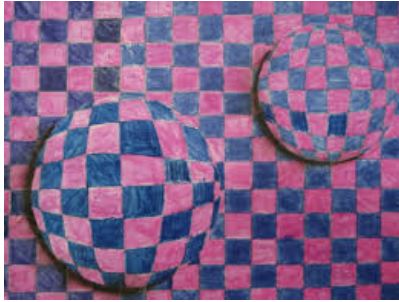
Basketball

== DONE

Up and coming

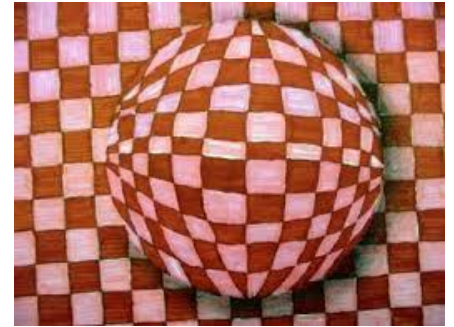
== Nutrition

ART



5th grade

5th graders have started on an optical illusion unit. Their first project is creating the illusion of a sphere on a flat surface



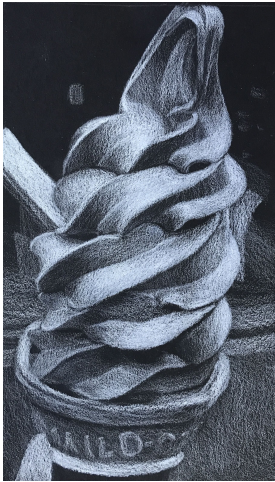
7th grade

7th graders have started a value unit learning how to draw soft
ice
serve

Encourage creativity:

BE OBSERVANT!

Draw, photograph, or paint the things you see on a daily basis. Challenge yourself: How can you look at them differently?



cream cones with white colored pencil on black paper.