



# Baldwin Middle School FEBRUARY Newsletter



Students in all grades are being welcomed back to technology class for semester 2. We will be starting off the 2nd semester by:

- Configuring logins for Typing.com and GoogleClassroom.
- Going over behavioral and academic expectations for the classroom and distance learning.
- Starting our unit on Internet Safety and Cyberbullying.



Google Classroom

## TIPS FOR STUDENTS DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP AND INTERNET SAFETY

- 1 LAWS** Many sites and web tools are 13+. Most images and work online are protected by copyright.
- 2 TALK** Tell your parents what you're doing online. Always ask a trusted adult if you're unsure of anything.
- 3 FRIENDS** Don't add or meet online friends without parent permission. Don't trust everything friends tell you.
- 4 PRIVACY** Keep personal info private: Your full name, Address, Phone number, Passwords, Your plans and birthday.
- 5 REPUTATION** Don't post anything you wouldn't want teachers, family, friends, and future employers to see.
- 6 QUESTION** You can't believe everything you read and see online. There's a lot of incorrect and biased info.
- 7 BULLYING** Tell someone if you think cyberbullying is happening to you or other people you know.
- 8 ACCOUNTS** Choose sensible email addresses and usernames. Use strong passwords and don't share them with others.
- 9 MANNERS** Be polite and respectful at all times. Treat others online how you'd like to be treated.
- 10 UNPLUG** Balance your screen time and green time. Get outdoors, move, play, and interact face to face.

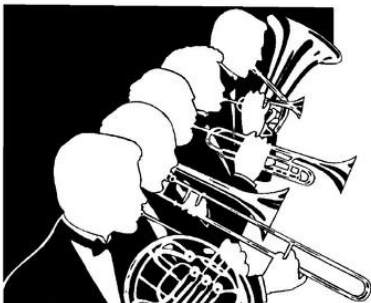
If in doubt, **think** about and **talk** it out



**All Students** are adjusting to their new semester of musical learning. They have logged into their Google Classrooms, begun their music journals, and are completing their first compositions on FLAT.



**Flat**  
for education



**All four bands** strive for excellence as they receive their full repertoire for their concert in the spring!

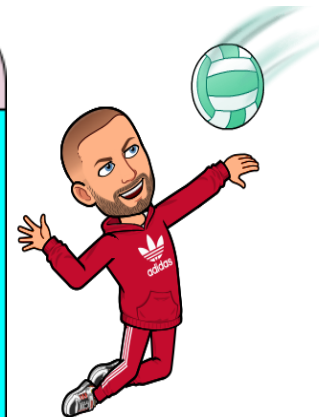


*What is happening?* VOLLEYBALL IS HAPPENING!

**Skills we are working on:**

- ☐ Bumping and Setting
- ☐ Serving
- ☐ Rotations
- ☐ Strategies

In addition, 7th and 8th graders are learning the Spike and Spike Block!



We are so excited to have the new group of students this second semester!



Welcome to PE!

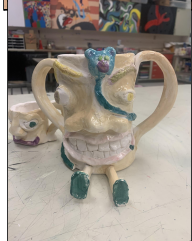
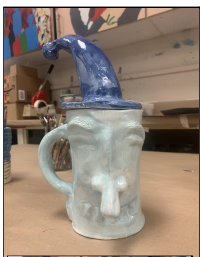


**ATTENTION ATTENTION!!**

**Volleyball Showdown!**



Thursday  
February 17th  
2:00 PM!



**Art**

Check out these amazing artworks created by Donna Coombs, Audrey Stimson and Collin Sherman!

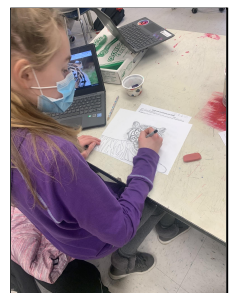
Challenge your student artists to be creative: Have them draw their dinner, create a sculpture out of recycled materials in your house, or challenge them to a drawing game!

**A FUN DRAWING GAME TO TRY AT HOME:**

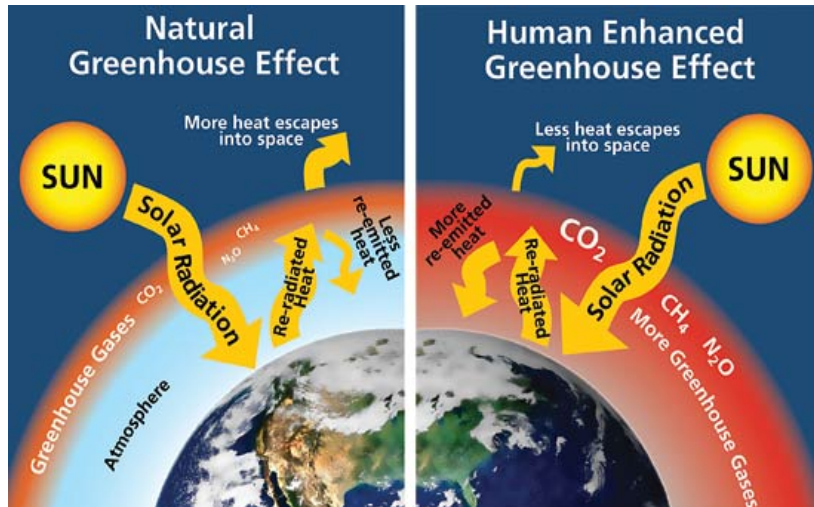
Scribble all over a piece of paper. Once the scribble is done, see what drawing pops out at you from the scribbles. Fill it in with color if you're inspired!

**CHALLENGE** your student artists! Instead of being on a **screen**, challenge them to create with their imaginations! **15 minutes of drawing** vs. 15 minutes of screen time will work to stretch their imaginations, increase fine motor skills, and help them find calm after a busy day at school.

Elizabeth Pagan and Oriana Pescatello are hard at work during art class creating beautiful original drawings







**5th-Link [Exoplanet Exploration](#)**-We suspect that every star has at least one planet. So, can you imagine how many planets must be in our solar system? Here is a record of the planets Nasa has confirmed. We are investigating what it takes for an exoplanet to support life as we know it. That means it is in the Goldilocks Zone.

## Social Studies Grades 5 & 6



Grade 5 students are continuing their learning about the Revolutionary War. Currently, we are with General George Washington at Valley Forge. Soon, the Patriots will be marching south to take on the British at Yorktown with their French allies.



Grade 6 students are currently learning about South America. From the Amazon Rainforest to the Andes Mountains, South America has virtually every type of climate and environment found on Earth.

## GRADE 5 READING + WRITING

IN WRITING, STUDENTS ARE LEARNING HOW TO RESEARCH AND USE EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THEIR CLAIMS, PRACTICE AND APPLY GOOD GRAMMAR SKILLS IN THEIR WRITING, AND PARTICIPATE IN THE FEBRUARY WRITING CHALLENGE!

IN READING, WE CONTINUE TO WORK IN SMALL GROUPS IN READING STATIONS PRACTICING A WIDE ARRAY OF CONCEPTS WEEKLY.

SIMPLE STRATEGIES TO HELP SUPPORT YOUR CHILD AT HOME WITH READING:

- BE FLEXIBLE WITH BEDTIME AND CHORES WHEN YOUR CHILD IS READING
- PLAY GAMES LIKE SCRABBLE OR BOGGLE
- ENCOURAGE YOUR STUDENT TO READ TO A YOUNGER SIBLING
- VISIT THE LIBRARY

STUDENT BOOK REVIEW BY: EMMA CROTEAU

WHEN STARS ARE SCATTERED BY VICTORIA JAMISON

GENRE- GRAPHIC NOVEL

"I WOULD RECOMMEND THIS BOOK BECAUSE IT DESCRIBES HOW REFUGEES SURVIVE THE MADNESS IN THEIR LIVES. I REALLY LIKED THIS BOOK BECAUSE IT TAUGHT ME THERE IS ALWAYS HOPE IN THE WORLD."

## Grade 6 Reading and Writing



Grade 6 Writing Classes are working on Literary Essay and writing claims. We have different short stories. "Stray," "Everything will be Okay," and "Thank You Ma'am." Students will be able to write an essay about a character, hopefully by the end of the term. . .

Grade 6 Reading classes are switching up again! New books - one group has finished Among the Hidden and will be reading Number the Stars. Another group has finished Number the Stars and will be reading Survival books for the next three weeks. Another group will be finishing Maniac Magee and moving to Among the Hidden. We are using signposts along the way to improve our understanding of what we read.



## $\frac{5}{6}$ Math

### 5th Grade Stations

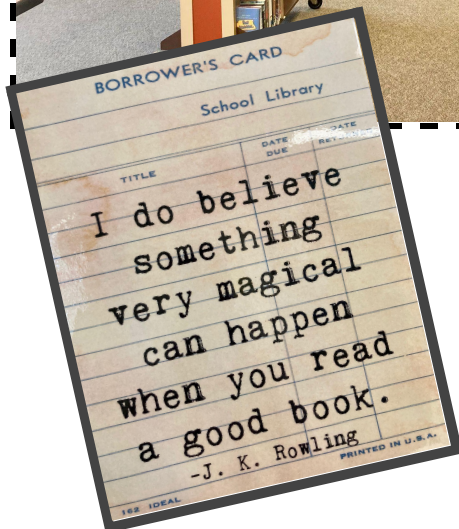
- Fractions
- Different types of triangles
- Line plots
- Decimals

Reminder:  
Check  
planners  
nightly for  
homework.

### 6th Grade Stations:

- Multiplying fractions
- Area and surface area
- Numerical Expressions
- Ratios

# Check Out the Library!



We have added  
**650 NEW books**  
to our shelves!!



Many thanks to our  
wonderful PTO,  
the Canterbury Education Foundation,  
and a generous member of our  
Canterbury community for making it happen!

The library will now be open to students **BEFORE SCHOOL!**  
Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:30am • sign up with Mrs.

Sweeney

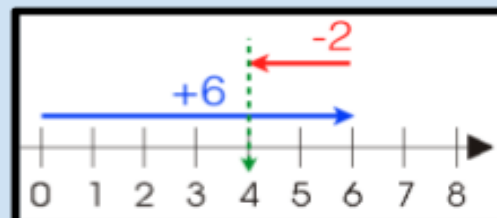


## Grades 7 & 8 Math



### Grade 7

To start the new year, seventh graders have been exploring addition and subtraction of positive and negative numbers using number lines, chip counters, and previous number sense. Using a tool such as a number line gives students an important visual representation of the outcome of integer addition or subtraction. Students also discovered that subtracting is the same as adding the opposite of a number!



### Simplify and Solve

Example:  $3x + 2(2x - 1) = 33$

1. Use Distributive Property
2. Combine Like terms
3. Use Inverse Operations

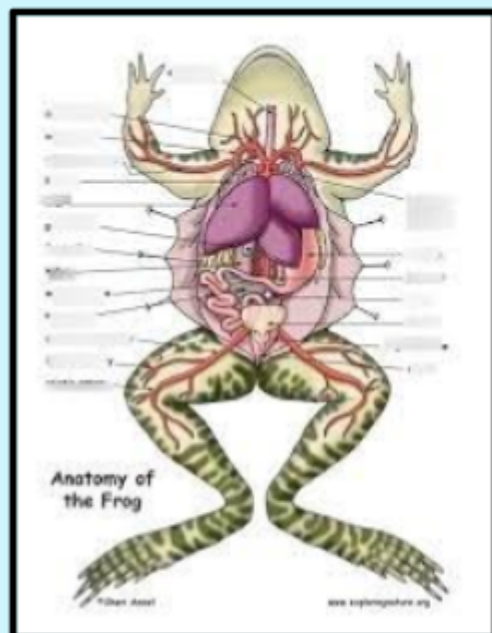
$$\begin{array}{rcl}
 3x + 2(2x - 1) & = & 33 \\
 3x + 4x - 2 & = & 33 \\
 7x - 2 & = & 33 \\
 7x - 2 + 2 & = & 33 + 2 \\
 7x & = & 35 \\
 7x \div 7 & = & 35 \div 7 \\
 x & = & 5
 \end{array}$$

### Grade 8

Eighth grade students have begun a study of solving equations using opposite operations. We began with simple one-step equations, and have built up our skills to include using Distributive property, combining like terms, and inverse operations to solve complex multi-step equations! We will continue to work with equations, before moving into Functions next month.



## Grade 7 & 8



Seventh and 8th grade students are midway through the Body Systems Unit. Students have been diligently working on a skeletal system interactive poster with their lab partners. We are working hard to understand each of the organs and functions of each body system. Students are looking forward to preparing for the frog dissection! Ask your student about their project!



**7th Grade: 7th graders are continuing our coverage of the continent of Africa. To finish precolonial Africa, Students wrote a persuasive paper where they argued against the concept of Africa as a “dark continent.” Currently, we are using a variety of sources to learn about the Atlantic Slave Trade and imperialism. We will investigate the Cape Coast Castle and the Belgian Congo in detail.**



**8th Grade: 8th graders have been learning about America during the first three presidential terms. In addition to some basic background information on Washington, Adams, and Jefferson, we have been focusing on the differences between Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson’s visions for the new country.**



## Español - 7 & 8

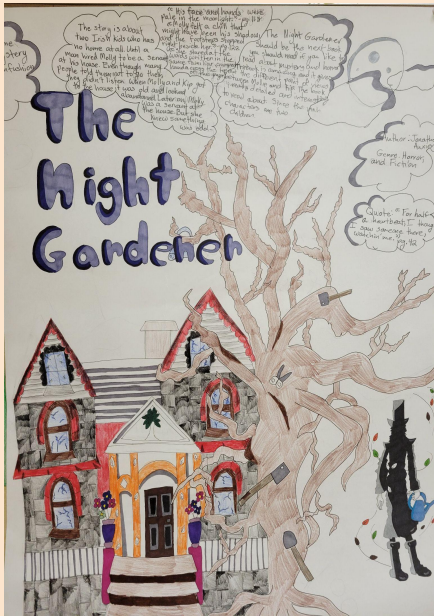
**7th grade:** We just began a new unit on the 1st of the month titled “Yo soy yo” (I am me) where we will learn adjectives, activities, and some verbs. We have 3 “I can” statements as our goal in this unit, they are:

- a) I can discuss my personal interests, daily activities and emotions
- b) I can describe my appearance and personality
- c) I can explore the lives of Hispanic teenagers and compare and contrast with my own.

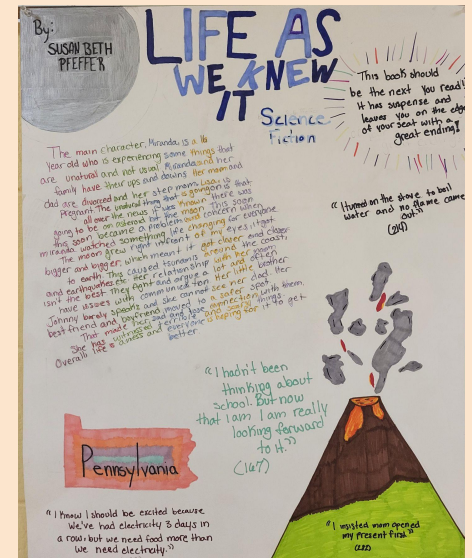
**8th grade:** We just began a new unit on the 1st of the month titled “Mi estilo individual” (My personal style) where we will learn adjectives, clothing style, clothing vocab, and verbs. This clothing vocabulary will help us navigate a lot of grammar points. This is a unit that is heavy on grammar. Like the 7th grade, the 8th grade also has “I can” statements to reach for this unit, and they are:

- a) I can describe and discuss my personal clothing style
- a) I can communicate in a store setting
- b) I can compare and contrast my style with clothing from the Hispanic world.

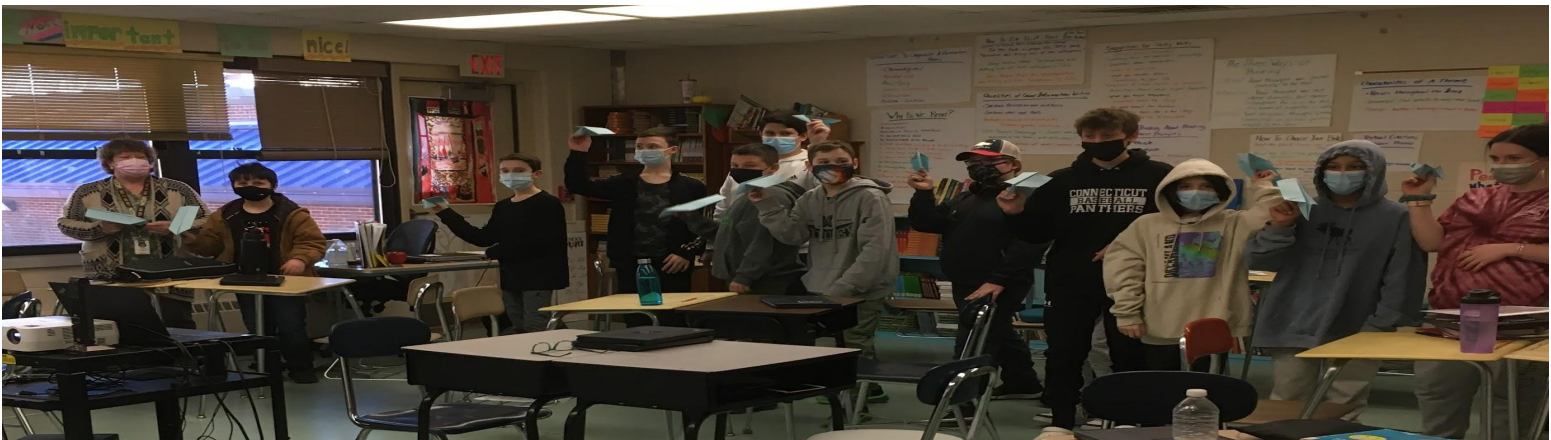
## Reading / Writing - 8th Grade



Students are currently working on Dystopian Literature. In reading, students are in Book Clubs exploring the genre while utilizing key reading skills. In writing, students are creating their own dystopian worlds. Enjoy two of the posters from the last project students worked on.



## Reading / Writing - 7th Grade



Seventh graders finished the Informational Writing Unit by creating fabulous step-by-step How To Presentations for their classmates. We learned how to: draw trees, play a variety of sports, take a photograph, use Picsart, create Google slides, animate, find a lost phone, get homework done, cheer, whittle, paint and finger paint, take care of plants, show beef cattle, drive stick-shift, camp, be persuasive, make friends, and bake many types of delicious meals, snacks, and drinks. In the above photo, students who just learned how to make a paper airplane are about to test their skills. (Congratulations, Max!)

In Reading, students just started small group Book Clubs. After identifying themes in their books, students will work together to use textual evidence to create Theme presentations for the class.





Eighth graders are beginning a new Second Step Unit:  
Thoughts, Emotions, and Decisions

The goals of this unit include students being able to:

- Recognize when they are feeling stressed or anxious
- Recognize that some stressors can provide positive challenges and opportunities for growth
- Apply stress-management strategies to cope with their stress

Guardians, please talk to your student about the differences between stress and anxiety. Talk about their strategies for dealing with stress, and share some of your own strategies.

### Mrs. Zuckerman's Rectangle

**Students and parents should continue to work on High School registration. This may look different depending on the school your students chose to attend next year.**

**High Schools that required an application are beginning or will shortly begin to send out decision letters. Feel free to reach out to me with any questions to [dzuckerman@canterburypublicschools.org](mailto:dzuckerman@canterburypublicschools.org)**



**We are continuing our Student Success Planning through Developmental Guidance lessons this month with all grades!**



As the second trimester winds down, now is a great time to make sure you are logging into the parent portal on Powerschool. This tool allows you to keep a real-time view of your student(s)' grades, ensuring that they are caught up on their assignments and heading in the right academic direction. What some parents don't know is that, while the portal shows each classroom grade, it also can give you an assignment by assignment view of how your child is doing and what they need to do to ensure they are knocking it out of the park come report card time. If you need assistance getting logged into Powerschool parent portal, please reach out to Mrs. Jill Smith by calling the school at 860-546-9421 or by emailing at [jsmith@canterburypublicschools.org](mailto:jsmith@canterburypublicschools.org). I will also be launching a parent portal webinar/video recording by the end of February, to assist you with getting logged in and ensuring you are able to stay connected with your student(s)' grades.

Finally, remember that February has a winter break in the middle of the month. Students will be off from Friday February 18th through Tuesday February 22, for the winter break. Students will return to school on Wednesday February 23. Grades will close that Friday, February 25 and report cards will come home on Friday March 4.

Let's enjoy the rest of our winter, stay safe, and let us know how we can help you to support your children!

**GO BULLDOGS!**

