



Baldwin Middle School



Newsletter



TECHNOLOGY



8th Grade- We are learning how to cite online sources using the MLA format and beginning the research phase of a major project of their choosing. Students could be 3d printing a customized object for the school, Creating a 3d game using Alice 3, or designing and constructing a robot, or creating an app.

7th Grade- Will be starting our Photo editing unit using Adobe Photoshop. Students will be challenged to edit and combine photos using a variety of tools and methods in order to create unique images and enhance others.



6th Grade - We have completed our unit on Internet safety and Cyberbullying. Currently, 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- We have ended our unit on Internet Safety and Cyberbullying! Next, we will be covering the major internal parts of the computer. We will be learning how to identify them and describe what each part does!



MUSIC



8th Grade are the first of the music groups to launch out of their concentrated Ukulele unit into their Guitar/Piano/Advanced Ukulele unit. Students select their "branching instrument," learning the fundamentals toward playing together on different parts.

5th-7th Grade are putting the finishing touches on their opening Ukulele unit and stand poised to select their Branch Instrument! **Concert Band** and **Symphonic Band** news in April.

Jazz Band Is absolutely CRUSHING their rehearsals, standing as the elite performing ensemble of the school. Dedicated, efficient, and energized.

Rock Band fights to find their identity as they continue to practice kindness, teamwork, and self-discipline. We vote on our next two concert pieces this week!



Baldwin
Health & Physical Education



This past month, students in Health Education have learned all about how to provide/use basic First Aid, CPR and an AED to someone in a life threatening situation.

Students have been in and out of the classroom setting, allowing time for them to learn directly, and receive ample opportunities for hands on training!



Check out these superstar students!



Remember the steps to any emergency situation!

- #1. Check
- #2. Call
- #3. Care



Happening up now
in Physical
Education:

FLOOR HOCKEY!



NEW!!!!

Art

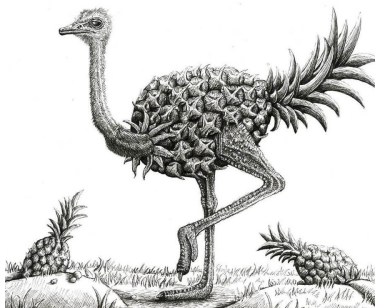
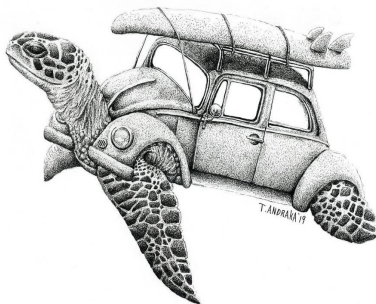


Drawing challenge of the month:

Create a drawing that morphs from one thing to another. Challenge your student by coming up with two random things to have them combine in a new way. Try your hardest! How does it look!?

Submit your drawings to srizer@canterburypublicschools.org

Drawings will be posted in the student newspaper as well as posted by the front office for student and staff voting! Winner will receive an award and bragging rights!



5th grade is currently beginning an origami project involving radial symmetry

6th grade is starting on an optical illusion they are creating with acrylic paint

7th grade is working diligently on their clay face mugs

8th grade is working on completing their murals around the school and they're looking great! Some very creative and fun additions to the school!

Check out these awesome examples by artist Tim Andraka



Science of Water and Ice



In 6th grade- We began March by looking closely at the atomic structure and properties of water. We also read about “The Making of a Snowflake” and “Is It Safe to Eat snow?” and discussed them Fishbowl style.

In 5th grade-we explored habitable planets which must have water to support life as we know it and learned that temperature is a key component of human survival as well.

Both classes explored “Instant Snow” polymer and its properties. Here is a TV video demo for you to watch. In our class we added food coloring and discussed the properties and uses of this cool invention. Always a good time for my students!



TV Demo of Instant Snow

For the rest of March **5th graders** will explore **Basic Chemistry** and learn the safety procedures for working with liquid in science. **6th graders** will learn about **Thermal Energy** with a problem solving platform I am trying, Amplify Science.

Social Studies Grades 5 & 6



Grade 5 social studies students are learning about the Constitutional Convention and the compromises which had to be reached to create the Constitution of the United States of America. This includes learning about the 3 tiers of government (legislative, executive, judicial) which we have to ensure that no branch of government gains too much power.



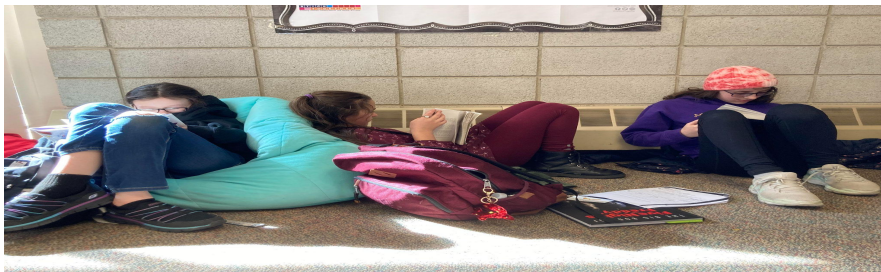
Grade 6 students are now learning about the ancient civilizations who lived in the areas we've studied so far this school year. Working backwards, students are learning about the ancient Maya, Aztec, and Inca.

GRADE 5 READING AND WRITING
RECOMMENDED READING BY: HADLY HERDIC
WHO IS MALALA?



"I RECOMMEND THIS BOOK TO ANYONE WHO LIKES TO READ ABOUT WOMEN WHO HAVE CHANGED THE WORLD."

STUDENTS ARE BUSY WORKING IN SMALL GROUPS IN READING AND WRITING. IN READING STATIONS, STUDENTS ARE FOCUSING ON SUMMARIZING, QUOTING ACCURATELY FROM THE TEXT, AND ANNOTATING. IN WRITING, STUDENTS ARE PRACTICING THE PROCESS OF EXTRACTING COMPELLING EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THEIR CLAIM. THE FEBRUARY WRITING CHALLENGE WINNERS ARE EMMA, HADLY, MADISON, MATTHEW, TYSON, AND BAILEIGH!



READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY 3/3/22

Grade 6 Reading and Writing



Writing classes continue to tackle the ins and outs of writing a character essay on the stories they chose. We are just getting to the typing, editing, and publishing stages. The next essay will be a theme based essay.

Reading classes have made a shift. One class did spend time working in Book Clubs with books about survival - *Hatchet*, *The Cay*, *My Side of the Mountain*, and *Island of the Blue Dolphins*. It was a learning experience and discussions will be something we tackle next. The other classes have switched books and will probably move to Book Club with this next round of books. We are spending one day a week in the library to provide students time to read books they choose.

5/6 Math

What is going on in stations.....

5th Grade Focus:

- ~Line Plots
- ~Fractions
- ~Decimals

Both grades are using games to practice our new skills.

6th Grade:

- ~Fractions
- ~Ratios
- ~Rates/Unit Rates
- ~Comparing and Rounding Decimals
- ~Area and Surface Area

Check Out the Library!

March is Women's History Month! Stop by the library to learn about amazing female trailblazers, scientists, politicians, artists, authors, entertainers, athletes, activists, and inventors.

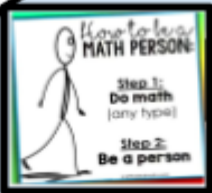


StickIt!
What message
will be
revealed?

The library is open to all students at **7:30am** on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

It's the perfect time to:

- catch up on HW
- browse the shelves
- add to the StickIt poster
- LEGO creation
- read a book, comic, or magazine

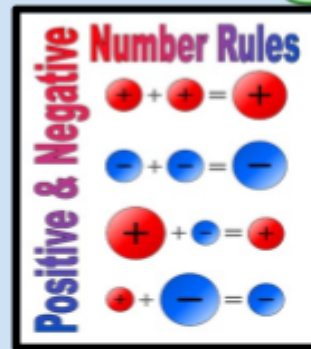


Grades 7 & 8 Math



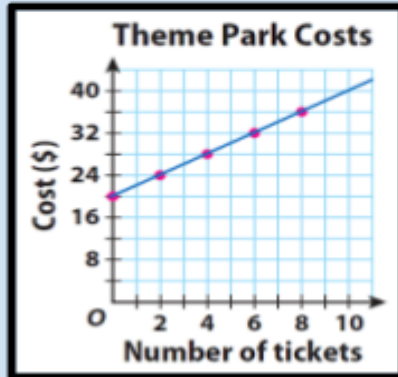
Grade 7

Moving into March, 7th graders are finishing up their study of rational numbers, which includes positive and negative fractions and decimals. They've discovered how to add, subtract, multiply and divide rational numbers, and the rules for positives and negatives. Our next unit involves expressions and equations.

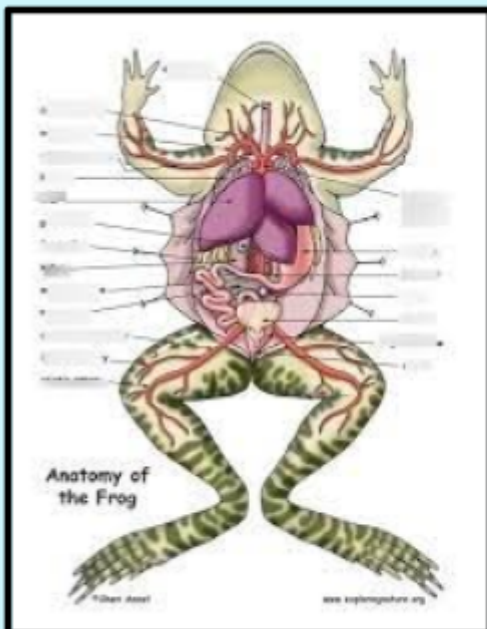


Grade 8

Eighth grade students are working diligently on linear relationships, exploring how to find the slope of a line, and what it means in the context of a real-world situation. They can now write an equation based on a line, and create a line when given an equation. This learning will help them next unit, where they will work to solve systems of linear equations in multiple ways.



Grade 7 & 8



Seventh and 8th grade students have completed the Body Systems Unit on all eleven body systems. Students are finally ready for the frog dissection lab! Each student will have an opportunity to choose how deeply they would like to participate but I am certain all students will be learning a great deal from this discovery-based lab.

7th Grade: 7th graders are concluding our coverage of the continent of Africa. Recently, we looked at primary sources from David Livingstone and answered a RACE question which analyzed the purpose of the slave trade and imperialism. We will finish Africa with a focus on decolonization in Africa. Students are currently working on a short slide show about a specific African independence movement. We will finish the year covering Europe with a focus on current events.



8th Grade: 8th graders have been learning about the early northern United States and the industrial revolution. We covered the origins of capitalism and the changes in textile manufacturing and are currently working on a virtual field trip assignment about the Blackstone River Valley. Next we will learn about labor movements in the north.



Reading / Writing - 8th Grade

The eighth grade students have been showing off their talent in reading and writing. In reading students are completing their second book club.

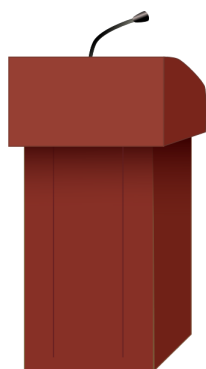


Students are drawing or taking pictures to represent the themes in their novels. Students will be moving on to reading a novel of their choice while exploring nonfiction and current events. In writing, students have been writing dystopian stories and will



be moving on to perfecting their research skills. Soon they will be able to have flawless, research-based arguments- look out!

Reading / Writing - 7th Grade



This month, the talented seventh graders are writing Argument papers on the harms and benefits of social media. Writing the arguments will prepare them for the Great Debate! After debating the pros and cons of social media, students will choose their own topics and write independent argument pieces.

In Reading, students are running their own Book Clubs. They are conducting student-led "Fishbowl" discussions, and choosing their own format to present the theme of their book to the rest of the class.



SECOND STEP GRADE 7



Seventh graders recently completed the third unit of the Second Step curriculum, where they learned how to identify unhelpful thoughts and strong emotions, then use strategies to help them manage these thoughts and emotions in order to make better decisions.

Unit four involves managing relationships and social conflict. Students will be:

- learning strategies for developing and maintaining healthy relationships
- Recognizing different perspectives of people involved in a conflict and
- Applying a four-step conflict resolution process to make things right



8th grade

This month, 8th grade students will learn to:

- Demonstrate how to choose strategies for managing stress;
- Analyze stressful situations and decide if they need to change strategies or get outside help to manage their stress;
- Identify people who can help them when they feel their stress is unmanageable; and
- Be able to create an individual plan for managing their stress.

Guardians, exchange ideas with your children about strategies for managing stress. Discuss people who are able to help when stress is unmanageable.

Mrs. Zuckerman's Rectangle

Parents- Please make sure you are completing high school registration information and responding to tech schools about your student's intention to attend. Reach out to me if you need assistance with the process.

dzuckerman@canterburypublicschools.org

860-546-9421



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Families,

We hope to see you at parent conferences this month! As we cruise into the end of the school year, please continue to work with your students on developing strong study habits and skills. Here are a few important skills you can work on with your student in order to ensure they are successful over the rest of this school year and every school year to come:

- 1) Develop Organizational Strategies:** Work with your student to understand how their brain works and to identify the best way to stay organized and on top of their work. For some students this means using an agenda. For others, it could mean using Google Calendar or a calendar in their phone, in order to keep track of what they have and when it is due. This skill will follow them through middle school, into high school and beyond.
- 2) Build Healthy Routines and Habits:** *Sleeping habits:* It is never too early for students to develop healthy lifelong routines and habits. Set healthy bedtimes for your student. A good barometer is: Ages 9-11- In bed by 8:30, lights out by 9; 12-14, in bed by 9:30, lights out by 10. Remember, young adults need 8-10 hours of sleep to fully recharge their brains; this sleep is even healthier if they turn all screens off at least 30 minutes before going to sleep. *Routines:* Have students identify a pattern for their daily tasks. Identify what time students will wake up each day, when they will do their homework, brush their teeth, eat dinner, etc. Once you identify these times with your student, practice them. 21 days of routine in a row becomes a habit, and strong routines and habits now are the key to success later.
- 3) Practice healthy stress relief:** One of the things we do as a school is provide students stress reducing strategies through Second Step and classroom discussion. Three stress-reducing strategies we have shared with students are: **1) Breathing deeply** in through the nose and out through the mouth. Research shows that deep breathing for 1 to 3 minutes, reduces stress hormones and increases calmness. **2) Counting Backwards** from 100 gives the brain a targeted focus that is neutral in nature and allows time for calm processing. **3) Walking away** from a stressful situation, while not always possible, is a final strategy that helps students to avoid saying or doing impulsive behaviors that may escalate a situation when they are stressed.

Taking the time to work on these strategies and habits with your student will help us to prepare them for success and to grow their brain in positive and responsible ways!