

Mrs. Van's February Facts!

Greetings from the middle school!

Here's a look at what will be coming up during the month of February...

**HAPPY
VALENTINE'S
DAY!**



Love...puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, but keeps going until the end.

I Corinthians 13:4a,7 *The Message*

6th Grade Bible

- Coming up soon, we will be starting our unit on Passion Week. Following each lesson, the students will be writing first person journal entries as if they were present during these truly momentous events.
- Our next unit will commemorate the death and resurrection of Christ. Even though these are familiar events, it is my prayer that the students will gain a deeper understanding of their significance through our in-depth study.
- Each Tuesday between now and Spring Break, the students are gathering in their Pit Crews with 7th and 8th graders for a student-led Bible study on the fruits of the spirit.

6th Grade Language Arts

- We have completed our Book Discussion Groups based on Newbery award-winning novels. The students finished up their Newbery book reports in fine fashion! I think they have a new appreciation for novels that win the Newbery!
- We will continue to work on accomplishing our independent reading goals. With only a few weeks left in the trimester, the students should be at a total of 10-12 books and about 4 stories. They also need to be sure they are keeping their reading notebook and bookmarks up-to-date.
- We are also close to completing an in-depth study of figures of speech (similes, metaphors, personification, and hyperboles) and how they add pizzazz to writing! There will be a test over the figures of speech on Monday.
- Coming up soon, we will start a Parts of Speech packet on nouns, pronouns, and verbs. Once the packet and review are complete, we'll have a quiz over the content.
- We will also have spelling lessons during some weeks, but not all.

7th Grade Language Arts

- Now that the country research reports are complete, we will work on putting together "mini-speeches" to share with the class. We will use our reports and online sources to prepare. The mini-speeches will take place the end of this week.
- We will continue to work on accomplishing our independent reading goals. With only a few weeks left in the trimester, the students should be at a total of 12-13 books and about 3-4 stories. They also need to be sure they are keeping their reading notebook and bookmarks up-to-date.
- Coming up soon, we will be reading and discussing a selection in our literature text entitled "Rosa Parks: My Story." The story and the follow-up video, *Ruby Bridges*, fit well with Black History Month and often generate a lot of worthwhile discussion.
- We will also be returning to the Write Source text for additional lessons on using punctuation correctly.
- Later this month, we will begin a Literature Circle unit based on four different novels set in Asian countries. The students will have folders for this unit, so please take a look at them to learn about the activities and requirements. The content of the novels may also make for some interesting "supper table conversations" as the students learn about cultures that are very different from their own.

7th Grade Social Studies

- We will finish up our study of Europe and Russia in the next week or so.
- We will then start our unit on Asia and the Pacific using our textbooks and other resources. We will also make many connections between language arts and social studies as the students progress through their Literature Circle novels.
- We also watch CNN 10 on Fridays to build awareness of current issues.

8th Grade Social Studies

- The students are in the midst of completing their own townships after learning about the organization of the Northwest Territories following the writing on the Constitution. We also looked at the township planning right here in Allendale Twp. by exploring their website.
- We are looking forward to going to the Gerald R. Ford Museum on Monday to explore more about the history and office of the presidency as it relates to West Michigan's own, President Ford.
- We will now follow the timeline of American history in the late 1700s and early 1800s as our country grew and changed. We will stop to focus more thoroughly on certain noteworthy events along the way.
- We will also continue our focus on "What's in the News?" Each Friday, we watch a segment of CNN 10 and one student is responsible for selecting a current news article to read, summarize, react to, and share with the class.
- Near the end of the month, we begin to study the presidency of Andrew Jackson. In addition to the content in the text, we will be watching a DVD on Jackson's presidency and participating in a related Web-Quest entitled "Should Andrew Jackson be on the Twenty-Dollar Bill?"

EXTRAS:

***A reminder from the office:**

Student Absence/Tardy: For every tardy or absence, a parent must notify school prior to the start of the day. You may email the teacher or call the office. If the office isn't open, please leave a message. Students who are tardy must receive a tardy slip from the office before they will be admitted to the classroom. **Family Vacations:** Please fill out a Planned Absence Form. This form is available in the school office and needs to be completed by the parent and returned to school one week prior to the trip.

***Valentine's Day will be celebrated in the 6th grade on Feb. 14. If your son or daughter would like to bring Valentines, candy, or treats, please be sure to send enough for everyone or all the kids of his or her gender.**

***A BIG THANK YOU to 7th grade parents for the time and effort you put into helping on the European Country Reports. The one-on-one attention that you can give to your son or daughter is invaluable to the success of this significant endeavor!**

***I look forward to meeting with many of you at conferences later this month!**

Blessings to you!

Mrs. Van

