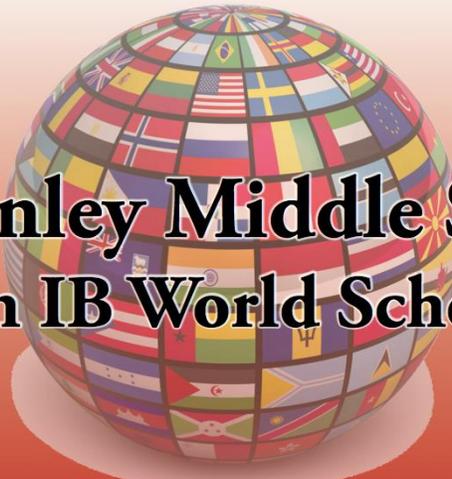


The Viking Voyage



McKinley Middle School An IB World School



March / April 2017



Principal's Note

Can you believe that we that we are almost entering the final quarter of the school year? This year has gone by quickly due to the number of exciting things we have going on in our building. If you have not taken part in the excitement, there are still several opportunities to check out upcoming events and activities that our students will be participating in before the end of the school year.

Even though the end of the school year is quickly approaching, there are several important academic opportunities for our students to showcase their skills. We will begin WI Forward Exam testing on March 20. This exam is imperative to our state report card and our staff have been having conversations with our students about the need to prepare for this exam. Please encourage your child to put forth their best effort during this exam.

Spring Break will be April 14 - April 21. We hope everyone has a safe and relaxing time off. Upon returning from break, we will begin Spring MAP testing. This is an opportunity for our students to show the growth that they have made during the school year in Math and Reading. We will be goal setting with our students about where they should be scoring. We would appreciate you asking your student what their goal is for the upcoming Spring MAP test so that your child can attain and exceed their scores!

Important Dates

**March 14 – 8th grade Passion
Project Family Night**

**March 23 – 2 hour Early Release
PM Parent / Teacher Conferences**

**March 24 – No School
Parent / Teacher Conferences**

March 29 – Spring Pictures

**March 30 – 6th grade Field Trip
Racine Theatre Guild**

March 30 – Talent Show

**April 6 – 8 – McKinley Musical
Willy Wonka Jr.**

April 14 – 21 Spring Recess

**April 25 – McKinley McTeacher Night
2100 Lathrop Ave.**

IB Happenings

Spring is on the way and our students are busy bees. 8th graders are working hard to wrap-up their Passion Projects. Passion Family Night is March 14th from 6-7:30PM. This is a mandatory event for all 8th graders. Students must be accompanied by an adult. Please be sure to share with your children the expectations for the Passion project and 8th Grade Day Away. We sent home letters outlining the details and requirements for the end of the year festivities at the end of February.

Thank you to our 7th graders and their families for the amazing attendance at the Around the World Family Night. It was amazing to see so many families here at McKinley supporting our kids.

The Forward State Test is quickly approaching. We will be testing the Weeks of March 20 through April 12th. Please encourage your kids to get plenty of sleep and to eat the morning of their tests.

Band/Orchestra

The Band and Orchestra Students are busy making music! The 6th Grade Band students have been working on improvisation skills and the 7th Grade Band students have been designing their own Fantasia segment.

If your student has signed up to participate in the District Solo and Ensemble event at Case HS on March 11th, more information should be coming home soon. Remember that all students need an original copy to give to their site judge. They should also plan on arriving with enough time to tune and warm up before their performance.

The Orchestra Students are busy preparing for Orchestra Festival. This event will take place on April 29th at Case High School. Please remember that this is a mandatory event for all orchestra students. More information will be sent home at a later date.

Looking ahead, don't forget our Spring Orchestra Concert is May 23rd at 7:00pm and our Spring Band Concert is May 25th at 7:00pm. Both will take place in the McKinley Gym.

International Travel Club

The Great Wall, the Forbidden City, and the Terracotta Warriors are just a few sights we will explore on our 2018 International Travel Club Trip. Anyone interested in learning about our upcoming trip to China - Summer 2018, should come to our next meeting on Monday, April 3rd. We will have our South Africa meeting first at 5:30 followed by our China Meeting at 6:30pm. If you have any questions before, please email stefanie.biesiada-webers@rusd.org.

Talent Show

The McKinley Talent show is scheduled for Thursday, March 30, at 5:30. We will be holding try-outs on Monday, March 6th and then practices will be every Monday and Wednesday from 3:45 to 4:45 in the gym. There is a sign up sheet in the office. Any questions, please see Mr. Palacios or Mrs. Valecce in room 150.

Musical

Willy Wonka Jr is coming up!

Performance Dates

Thursday, April 6th 7:00 pm

Friday, April 7th 10:00 am

Friday, April 7th, 7:00 pm

Saturday, April 8th

Tickets are \$5.00

If you would like to place an ad in the program please contact me at hannah.kovach@rusd.org

PBIS

Throughout the months of March and April, students will continue to be praised and receive Viking Vouchers for demonstrating the Viking Way: IB Safe, IB Respectful and IB Responsible. Students will be able to cash in Viking Vouchers for prizes like pencils, pens, erasers, McKinley memorabilia and more at the new school store in the cafeteria.

There will be a quarterly PBIS assembly where students who are referral, minor and cell phone violation free, will be eligible for a raffle. Please encourage your child to exhibit positive behaviors throughout the school day.

Counselor's Corner

STEAM Opportunity- There will be another Science Technology Engineering Arts and Mathematics Academy this Summer. For more information, go to <http://www.cdestem.com/> or contact your Child's Counselor.

This is a good time to clarify Quarterly Scholastic Honors and Scholastic Honors. Each Quarter students who earn a 3.00 gpa or better received recognition at our Honors Breakfast. Scholastics Honors is recognition given to those students who have earned a 3.5 gpa or better average for the first three quarters. Normally these students are recognized during Honors Night. Our next Honors Breakfast will be April 10th.

Student Government

Student Government has been working hard on Cottingham's Closet (CC), the closet had recently been moved and we had to resort as well as make space for more items. It is exciting because in addition to clothing for students in need, Cottingham's Closet it going to be adding canned food as well as personal items to the closet. Thanks again to Mrs. Cottingham for housing and overseeing this amazing program.

Reminder, anyone interested in joining Student Government should come to our next meetings: March 8th & April 5, in Room 302 after school until 4:30pm. We will be planning McKinley Spirit Week (the week of Spring Break). Hope to see you there!!

AfterZone

We have begun our third module! We began new classes, which include 3D Printing, WOOSAHH (a relaxation therapy session), and flag football. We also have Mad Science of Milwaukee coming five times to get students involved in hands-on science projects. We are excited about the upcoming events! Parents, please remember to pick your students up on time. First session ends at 5:00 and second session ends at 5:45. Please be there promptly to pick up students. Thank you!

Language Acquisition

During March and April, 6th grade students will continue to explore French and Spanish. Students will explore where the languages are spoken, why it is beneficial to learn another language, numbers, the alphabet, colors, seasons, weather and much more!

7th grade French students will be working on creating a "French cafe" and will be creating a dialogue to demonstrate their knowledge of what they learned about foods, beverages and ordering in a cafe. Students will finish this unit with a special food day where students will get to try an authentic French crepe.

8th grade French students will be starting a unit on describing people and objects. During this unit, students will be practicing adjective agreement and verb conjugations in order to ensure that they are ready for level 2 in high school.

Athletics

Both 7th and 8th grade basketball teams had a GREAT season! 7th grade ended with a 5-2 record and the 8th graders with a 7-1 record finishing 2nd in the City!!! The next sport to be starting up soon is Track. We will be starting intramural sports as well (softball, soccer, pickleball, and rock climbing.) Students should listen to announcements for more information in the coming up weeks.

Brazil

Brazil is famous all over the world for its Carnival in February each year. Brazilians dress in flamboyant costumes and there is a lot of dancing, singing and partying. Known as Carnival in Portuguese it is the world's biggest carnival. The celebration is held for 5 days, 40 days before Easter. Students were able to learn about Carnival and explore more into what makes Brazil so special!

In Math and Science we have officially switched over to a 1:1 classroom. Thanks to the RITE grant Ms. Skaarnes was awarded we have 30 Dell Chromebook 11's in our classroom every day. Each section of students came up with a computer use contract they understood, agreed to and would be able to follow daily. These posters were signed and are hanging up in room 161 as a daily reminder of the expectations.

Science: In science class we have been learning about strategic searching, using search engines to find the most accurate results, bookmarking pages, citing our sources, knowing the difference between real news vs fake news and how to create an infographic. Using these skills students have been focuses on animals from the Amazon Rainforest to enhance their knowledge in both science and with our new chromebooks. We will be continuing to learn how to use new tools and websites throughout the rest of the school year. These are all important skills the students will need to succeed in school and throughout the rest of their life. By the end of this year Brazil house students will be prepared to tackle any computer project or challenge they are given!

Math: We have been focusing on taking apart word problems and explaining our thoughts orally using mathematical terminology. Students have been participating in number talks at the start of each class, Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays we focus on explaining how we solved a basic multiplication or division problem sharing our different strategies with the rest of the class. On Tuesdays students have to figure out and explain a pattern they are shown either with words, numbers or shapes. Fridays are the students' favorite day for number talks because we watch a TEDEd riddle video that they have to try and figure out, some weeks we all figure the riddle out and then other weeks the entire class has been stumped!

I&S: Currently the 6th graders are working on their Rainforest Unit. They have been learning everything from Indigenous people, animals, plants, insects, and deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest.

Lang & Lit is currently learning about informational reading and writing. They have also been learning close read as well as constructed responses.

Scotland

Hello everyone, In I&S we are working on creating a project about the Amazon Rainforest. This unit is combined with science to create a protest about what is happening in the Amazon with regards to deforestation and habitat destruction. Students will be able to pick 1 of 6 types of protests they would like to display. Students will be looking at what the amazon has to offer the world and how they can help stop the destruction of deforestation. I look forward to hearing the arguments when the students present their projects.

In L&L we have been "close" reading which is a way for students to better "get" what is presented to them. "Close" reading involves reading the piece 3 times, so the students really understand what they are reading. The final project is a writing assignment about an argument.

Hello everyone, in Math we are working on fraction and fraction concepts. Those concepts include, adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing of fractions and mixed numbers. We applied the CUBES method to solving fraction word problems and the students are catching on fast.

In Science, we are working on the plant life of the Amazon Rainforest. We looked into photosynthesis and how it is used in the Rainforest. We also had a debate discussing the pros and cons of deforestation which got pretty intense.

Costa Rica

Individuals & Societies: During third quarter students are learning about the rainforest. Our Rainforest Unit is an interdisciplinary unit, combining information learned in both Science and I & S. Students have explored South America, the Amazon Rainforest, the Amazon River, learn about the history of people in Brazil, deforestation and the effects humans have on the rainforest.

Language & Literature: Students are currently working through our Informational Reading and Writing Unit. We are learning about text features, author's purpose, text structures, and how to write a summary. We have also been using our close reading text to write constructed responses using a specific format.

Restate the question

Answer all parts of the question

Cite evidence from the text

Explain your thinking

It's been quite a process learning how to use this format and we've been writing multiple responses, but practice will only help us grow as writers!

Math: We have been working hard on Fractions! We have been adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing, and simplifying! We are moving on to decimals next! We have also begun a new form of warm-up with the use of Number Talks to encourage our students to communicate in an educational way. We are also using the CUBES method to break down word problems. They have been picking up on these skills and have been using them often!

Science: Our focus for 3rd quarter is the Amazon Rainforest, ecosystems, and deforestation. This is in relation to their I&S unit. So far, we have learned about photosynthesis, parts of a flower, and parts of a plant. We have just begun learning about Ecosystems and layers of the Rainforest. We are using a variety of ways to learn about these topics including more use of our Google Classroom and Interactive Notebooks. Please let me know if you have any questions about either of those as you are welcome to gain access to our Google Classrooms to stay up to date on your child's learning!

Serbia

Dobrodosli u Kuca od Srbiju! Kao i uvek... Oh, pardon me! I forgot that not all of you speak Serbian. Let me try again. Welcome to Serbia House! As always, we have much going on in school, and with Spring quickly approaching, outside of school.

First things first: we have exciting news! Serbia House had the honor of being chosen to represent McKinley in a national summit video for Blended Learning. Many of our students were involved in this project. We will let you know when the video is being released. You will be as proud as we are of our amazing learners.

In addition, many of our awesome scholars were on the honor roll for 2nd quarter! They worked hard for this reward, and we are impressed with their dedication to their education.

We have many plans for the upcoming weeks as we venture deeper into the final two quarters of 6th grade.

In **math**, it's fractions, fractions, fractions! Our students are learning more than they ever thought possible on the different operations and values of those pesky fractions.

They are also able to explain the processes of multiplying, dividing, adding and subtracting them, using official mathematical terms that would make Pythagoras proud.

Once we master fractions, we will be moving on to decimals, ratios and percentages. We are also tackling word problems, also known as real world problems, by breaking them down and figuring out all the parts we need to answer the question asked. This is a great skill for future problem solving.

I & S and **Science** have teamed up to explore the tropics-- specifically, the Amazon Rainforest. We are weighing the pluses and minuses of cutting down trees and harvesting plants from the huge forest, and if the profit is worth the cost. We are also having fun with all the critters and plants that we are finding in that exotic environment. We will be doing a combined project to finish this unit.

Lang & Lit is all about reading, writing, and writing about reading. We are analyzing both fiction and nonfiction texts and are learning how to find and cite evidence to support our claims. We apologize in advance for the future arguments your student will be able to defend and support, if all goes as planned. We are also exploring Greek and Latin roots to help us decode unfamiliar words we may run across. Again, this is a skill that will make our future even more successful.

Speaking of future, looking ahead, we have the Wisconsin Forward Exam looming near. We are working with the students so that they are comfortable with the question format as well as the environment where they will be testing. On a more fun note, we are hoping to get out of the building and do some real world exploring. We had such fun at the Culture Fair last semester that we would like to repeat it with a new adventure. Stay tuned!

Until then, Uzivajte u ostatku zime!

Madagascar

Language & Literature: Students have spent plenty of time sharpening their narrative reading skills and will be working on a culminating project in which they creatively display the knowledge they have gained about the fictional elements of their chosen fiction books. I can't wait to see all of the creative efforts that your student puts into the projects. After this unit wraps up, we will be moving into narrative writing within a science fiction based unit. Students will be examining futuristic stories in which technology, innovation, and even social responsibility and ethics with regards to technology, all come into play! Students will also be writing in relation to the science fiction unit's themes.

Science: We have moved into our Force and Motion unit. Through labs students have been learning and testing Newton's 3 laws of motion. Using our knowledge of roller coasters, we learned to calculate and identify potential and kinetic energy, acceleration, force and speed. Students designed their own virtual roller coaster track that included loops, hills and had to pass a safety check. Next week, we will making balloon rockets to discover that for every reaction there is an opposite reaction.

Switzerland

Greeting Parents! In Language and Literature students have been working hard practicing both a new reading strategy and a constructed response strategy while continuing to read a novel of choice. We are just starting to work on a final portfolio that will count as a significant assessment grade. Students were allowed to make choices to work on various pieces as the culminating project. When students finish this unit, we will transition to a Narrative Writing Unit where students will create an original piece. Students will practice brainstorming, pre-writing, writing, and peer editing. As a final stage of the writing, students will complete their work on a computer and then share it with me.

In science we are still working on our unit on Forces and Energy. We have been learning about force, acceleration, and friction, and we will be doing some more fun experiments testing speed ($\text{speed} = \text{distance}/\text{time}$). After this unit we will finish up the year with Water and the Atmosphere.

United Nations – Title I

The students are working hard in math and literacy, and it showed with many of them making gains on their winter MAP test. Please encourage them to read at home, and get a lot of rest as we get ready for the Forward Exam, in March. The students are working hard in achieving their grade-level goals. Congratulations to the students exited from the program.

French Polynesia

Our Students continue working towards their yearend goals. NWEA Map testing produced positive growth for many of our students. We are continuing to work to improve our reading and written response skills, our verbal and written expressions of how we understand and communicate mathematical processes, and finally, how we support our statements with evidence and documented sources. We are working hard to meet all of our yearly goals and expectations.

Australia

Math: We have been working hard to master the concept of Slope and Graphing the y-intercept. Now that we've completed our work on tables using (x,y), we will be moving on to functions. Using Close Reading (What? Reading in math class?), we are able to break down word problems and find a deeper understanding of information and questions. We now use Number Talks to respond to our thinking, Close Reading to break down information, and Constructed Response to communicate our answer. Lots of learning and growing!!

Algebra B students will be discovering quadratic functions in class. They are also applying their math skills while practicing constructed-response problems in class. These are more challenging word problems that require students to think about several steps and explain their answers in more detail.

Algebra I students will be solving systems of equations in class. They are also applying their math skills with constructed-response problems in class.

Science: Students are learning about the human body systems. Over the next few weeks students will be learning about the skeletal, integumentary, muscular, circulatory, respiratory, digestive, excretory, nervous, immune, and endocrine systems. There will be quizzes periodically throughout the unit and at the end of the unit the IB assessment will be a test.

Language and Literature: An IB inquirer is a curious, questioning explorer. In language and literature, students have been researching and presenting topics that interest them. They have tapped into informational text to discover knowledge that moves them. Additionally, we have been practicing close reading and constructed response.

I&S: Students are finishing up learning about the US Government and what their rights and responsibilities are. After that, we are moving on to Westward Expansion. As with their other classes, students are also working on constructed responses and close reading within our subject to help guide their learning.

Tibet

Math: We have been working hard to master the concept of Slope and Graphing the y-intercept. Now that we've completed our work on tables using (x,y), we will be moving on to functions. Using Close Reading (What? Reading in math class?), we are able to break down word problems and find a deeper understanding of information and questions. We now use Number Talks to respond to our thinking, Close Reading to break down information, and Constructed Response to communicate our answer. Lots of learning and growing!!

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Algebra I students will be solving systems of equations in class. They are also applying their math skills with constructed-response problems in class.

Science - Students are now learning about the human body systems. Students will be learning about 10 of the human body systems. Students will engage in projects such as looking at the structure of the human hand, constructing a skeleton, musculoskeletal lab and sheep eye dissection just to name a few. There will be periodic quizzes and their final IB assessment will be a test. We will then move into Chemistry.

attendance **MATTERS**

ATTENDANCE

Excellent attendance is essential to school success. Students are expected, when healthy to attend all scheduled classes and activities on time except as excused by the school. When students are ill, parents/guardians need to report their child's absence by calling **664-6155**. If phoning in when voicemail is on, please leave the following information:

- The student's name and grade
- The reason for the absence
- The probable duration of the absence
- The identity of the person calling

If your child has been absent 10+ days this semester/year due to illness or other reasons, these absences are considered excessive and we will need a medical statement from your child's physician to excuse her/him for the remainder of this school term. All remaining absences, which are not accompanied by a doctor's excuse, will be treated as trancies as per our District Policy.

EARLY DISMISSAL OR LATE ARRIVALS

It is requested that dental and medical appointments be scheduled outside of the normal school day as much as possible. In the event a student must leave before the school day ends, or arriving at school late, the parent must come to the office and sign the child in or out.

McKinley Middle School

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<http://www.rusd.org/mckinley>



McKinley is now on Facebook!

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