

SKYHAWK NEWS

Volume 4, Issue 6, December, 2009

Hill Campus of Arts and
Sciences

FROM OUR PRINCIPAL.....Don Roy



Waiting patiently

Does your child expect everything to happen now? If a friend doesn't call back immediately or her teacher hasn't graded her project yet, encourage her to come up with possible explanations. Maybe her friend is at a movie or the teacher has 100 assignments to grade. Thinking reasonably can help her be patient.

History lesson

When you're out with your middle grader, read historic markers together. These roadside plaques tell what happened in a particular spot (a trail was discovered, a famous person was born). Suggest that your child visit your library to learn more about an event. Tip: Read markers around the country at www.historicmarkers.com.

Plugged in—safely

Whether at home, in the library, or at a friend's house, your child is likely to be online these days. Use these guidelines to be sure he stays safe in cyberspace.

Social networking

Sites like Facebook and MySpace are becoming more popular with middle graders. If your child has an account, have him add you to his list of friends. (Note: He must be 13 to join.) That way, you can see who his online friends are and keep an eye on his postings. Make sure his profile is private, and ask him to mark photos so that only friends (not "friends of friends") can view them.

Surfing

Does your youngster browse sites about sports, celebrities, or other topics? The seemingly endless amount of information online is appealing to middle graders, but it's not always appropriate. Help your child create a list of safe "favorites," including kid-friendly search engines like www.quinturakids.com or <http://kids.yahoo.com>. You can also set parental controls that limit what your middle grader can view. (For instructions, type "parental controls" into a search engine.)

Instant messaging

Many middle schoolers love instant messaging—it's fast-paced and lets them talk to multiple pals at once. But "cyberbullies" also use IM, so your child should accept messages only from friends or relatives. If someone harasses him online, he should report it to the IM provider and block the person from his buddy list.

Note: If you have a computer at home, keep it where you can supervise your child. Check the sites he's on, and discuss what he's doing online.

Writing Break

Writing for just five minutes a day can build your youngster's skills. Suggest that she:

- Jot down song lyrics. Your middle grader may enjoy writing about what she thinks they mean or how they make her feel.
- Start a list of books she plans to read. She might include the title, the author's name, and a short description. When she finishes a book, she can add her opinion.
- Keep track of family news. Your child can record her softball stats or a younger sibling's progress in karate. She might use these reports to start a family newsletter to send to relatives.

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WISHING YOU AND YOURS A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!

Sincerely,

Don Roy

Principal,
Hill Campus of Arts and Sciences



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See us at:

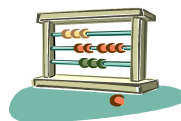
<http://hill.dpsk12.org/>

Talk to any Hill teacher by email!



Mathletics

On November 18, Hill hosted one of the DPS cluster Mathletics competitions. Other schools at the competition included Greenwood ECE-8, Pioneer Charter, Odyssey Charter, and Smiley Middle School. Hill swept 8 of the 9 events we participated in. Hill took 1st place in the 6th grade team competition; the Hill 7th/8th grade Team A took 1st place and the Hill 7th/8th grade Team B took 2nd place in the 7th/8th grade team competition. In the 6th grade individual competition, Ryan Culhane took 1st place, Gabe Zansburg 2nd, and Claire Shugart 3rd, to sweep the individual awards. In the 7th/8th grade individual competition, Conor Messer took 1st place, and Sarah Nick and Noah Adelstein tied for 3rd. Conor was only one problem short of achieving a perfect score! Our next competition is January 13.



6th Grade Math News

It's been an enriching, enlightening, fun-filled math experience so far for our 6th graders. They have been devoted to their learning and determined to grow from Unsatisfactory to Partially Proficient to Proficient. Many have even set their sights on Advanced by the end of the year. Regardless of the flu epidemic or the many field trips, all classes have remained on the pacing for the curriculum.

In the traditional classes, we have covered three units so far, and are ready to embark on the Data About Us unit project. This is probably one of the most exciting projects for the students. The project is called "What is typical about a middle school student?" The project requires students to conduct a statistical investigation to determine some "typical" characteristics of students in their class or their school. A survey is written, distributed to the entire school, each student is assigned a question, and it is that person's responsibility to collect data about the results of the question, organize the data in a table, graph the data in two different ways, and analyze/interpret the data to determine what is typical - using the measures of center and the spread of data (mode, median, mean, and range.) The other books studied (Prime Time - Number Theory and Bits 1 - Understanding at a deep level fractions, decimals and percents) are the foundation of all the others to follow for the rest of 6th, 7th and 8th grade. Without a strong foundation with Standard 1 - Number Sense and Standard 6 - Computation, students will struggle through these crucial years. These books prepare the students for Algebra. The strand is embedded in the investigations by having the students solve for the unknown variable as well as determine if their is a constant rate. If so, then an equation or rule can be written. Over 20% of the CSAP covers this material alone. Benchmarks are this week, and we feel for the most part that the students are prepared to show growth compared to the first benchmark.

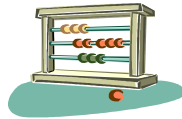
IMPORTANT DATES



Dec 8, Tuesday	Spelling Bee – Auditorium 9-11:30AM MESA – Garden Level 7-1PM
Dec. 9, Wednesday	SOS Ski Trip Early Release 11:30
Dec. 10, Thursday	Ms. Niebauer's 7 th Grade – A Christmas Carol Ms. Gamble's Group to DU for Granny Dances
Dec. 15, Tuesday	Band Concert – Auditorium 7PM
Dec. 17, Thursday	Choir Concert – Auditorium 7PM
Dec. 18, Friday	End of first semester
12/19 – 1/4	Winter Break 
Jan. 11, Monday	Science Fair – Café PM
Jan. 13, Wednesday	Mathletics – LMC AM
Jan. 14, Thursday	6 th Grade PE Snowshoe Trip PTA Meeting 6PM – Community Room

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6th Grade Math News (continued)



For the honors classes, we are on the fourth book, Bits 2, which uses the operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of fractions to compute problems using real-life applications. Although the students feel they understand, the problems delve deep into why the operations are used in various forms. By the end of the unit, students can't believe that the material is considered 6th grade work. Instead, the thread of algebra is built in making it a real challenge for the students to solve the problems. The project for Data About Us has been completed, and the students did a dynamite job by following the rubric covering all the essential elements of the book as well as some concepts addressed in the 7th grade unit, Variables and Patterns. Take a gallery walk down the 6th grade hall to check out the outstanding work. In addition, we continually challenge the students with Math Counts problems, Princeton Challenge problems, and other advanced work that draws attention to deeper or broader aspects of the investigations done in class. We will cover all the 6th grade books by CSAP, then focus on 7th grade material as well as tackle many projects that tie into the units.

It has been a great start, and we are looking forward to continuing on this path of success for our 6th graders in math. ~~~~The 6th grade math team.

Mr. Vesceri's Monthly Math Problem



Five men (Paulding, Tabb, Singh, Jackson, and Goodfriend) crash-land their airplane on a deserted island in the South Pacific. On their first day they gather as many coconuts as they can find into one big pile. They decide that, since it is getting dark, they will wait until the next day to divide the coconuts.

That night each man took a turn watching for rescue searchers while the others slept. The first watcher got bored so he decided to divide the coconuts into five equal piles. When he did this, he found he had one remaining coconut. He gave this coconut to a monkey, took one of the piles, and hid it for himself. Then he jumbled up the four other piles into one big pile again.

To cut a long story short, each of the five men ended up doing exactly the same thing. They each divided the coconuts into five equal piles and had one extra coconut left over, which they gave to the monkey. They each took one of the five piles and hid those coconuts. They each came back and jumbled up the remaining four piles into one big pile.

What is the smallest number of coconuts there could have been in the original pile?



Science Fair Update

After months of planning, December is filled with student researchers running their science experiments, gathering data to present at Hill's annual Science Fair. This year, projects ranging from catapults to crystals are underway in the sixth grade classes. In all grades, creativity abounds in the design and focus of the experiments. The judged poster board session takes place on January 11th, 2010, in Hill's cafeteria. Mark your calendars to join us at 5:00 for the Open House! The top three projects from each grade will represent Hill at the district fair later in the month.

Ms. Niebauer's 7th Grade Language Arts Classes

In Ms. Niebauer's 7th grade Language Arts class, we have been learning about what influences our choices. We examined advertising and how they use persuasive techniques and claims to get consumers to buy their products. We are now learning how to influence others in persuasive writing.

We just finished the fourth annual Hill Campus Read-a-Thon and our three Language Arts classes raised more than \$3,000! We took the students to the bookstore last week and each student got to pick out three books for the classroom library. It was such a fun experience watching the students pick out books that they're interested in. Some kids have never been to a bookstore before! So thank you to all the families that helped our Read-a-Thon, it was a great success!

My Period 1/2 class is in the middle of reading Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." We will go see the play at the Denver Center of Performing Arts December 10th. The kids are really looking forward to seeing the play.

It's been a very busy first semester and it's hard to believe that it is already coming to a close!



Physical Education Happenings.....

This month, floor hockey is pretty popular in Mr. Chapman's PE classes, while a Volleyball unit just finished in Ms. Slocum's class. Students are performing movement sentences in Ms. Slocum's class along with some yoga and a variety of dance. The students have 3 weeks left in their PE classes to dress out and put forth as much effort as possible to keep those good grades. After the

holiday break, these students will be changing to another elective. Our 6th graders had a great experience at DU with the opportunity to participate in gymnastics, ice-skating, swimming and lacrosse. Our next field trip for our 6th graders will be Dec. 3. They will be taking a snowshoe trip with the Balarat Outdoor Education Program to experience winter survival and learn about the science of avalanches in the mountains. At this time we want to thank all of our volunteers for their time and energy in making our field trips possible at Hill Campus. We also want to thank our wonderful PTA for all that they do and their generosity in making our Ski trips possible.



Granny Dances to a Holiday Drum

.....becoming an annual event for hardworking Hill kids who make good choices

Over a dozen Hill students will get recognition for their hard work and good citizenship by being invited to attend Cleo Parker Robinson's (Cleo is a former Hill student herself) holiday production of ***Granny Dances to a Holiday Drum***, at D.U.'s Newman Theatre, on, **December 10th**. For the last five years, Ms. Fine and Ms. Gamble, along with Ms. Slocum, have selected a number of students who demonstrate a strong desire to learn and a strong desire to lead by example with their character. Many of the students who are selected may not have the opportunity to see such an exciting cultural production of this nature and so this excursion is a way of letting a few great kids know that their efforts do not go unnoticed! The following is a synopsis of the performance the students will see:

Granny Dances to a Holiday Drum is a magical story of family tradition and celebration shared by people throughout the world. Granny's memories are her gifts to those she loves, but she has forgotten many of her stories and the magical dances she's seen in her lifetime. In her youth she danced in festivals honoring the birth of Christ, the African Harvest, the Native American Winter Solstice, the Celtic Yule Time, Las Posadas in Mexico, the ancient Hebrew Festival of Lights, Chinese New Year and Junkanoo in the Caribbean. Now, Granny seeks to retrieve and pass these memories on to her two grandchildren. Through dance, live music, and spoken word, she relives her experiences of the world's diverse holiday celebrations.

D/HH Words and Phrases of the Month

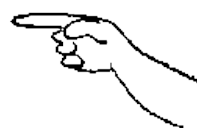
Remember to practice what you have learned with one of our students or teachers!



Hello!



How are



you?



I'm



good.

Keystone Science School

We are looking forward to our trip to the Keystone Science School January 27-29, 2010. For those signed up for the trip, we need your final payment of \$105 by January 11th. More information regarding the trip itinerary and items you need for the trip will be posted on the Hill web site by the end of next week. The Keystone page is accessed via Mr. Tabb's staff web page.



Exchange Student Needs a Home

There's a nice young man (Raphael) from Brazil looking for a local family to host him for a semester next year until the end of May. Raphael is a 17 year old boy from Belem, Brazil, where his native language is Portugese. He has been in the States since September as a foreign exchange student through a program called Youth for Understanding (YFU) and is really motivated to improve his English and experience American life. He is healthy, has an easy temperament, is a good student and a "go with the flow" kind of kid. His only request is to stay in central Denver so that he can continue at his high school, Denver Center for International Studies (DCIS), which is near downtown at 6th and Fox, just west of Broadway. He can take the bus to / from school so there are not expectations for transportation. The host family goes through a very simple application process and is expected to include the student in family activities but not expected to entertain. Other than family meals and additional member in the house, there are no financial obligations. Raphael has his own cell phone, credit card, and pays for his clothing, snowboarding, etc. He has health insurance through Aetna and is covered if something should happen while here in the U.S. He talks via Internet with his family (parents, 13 year old sister) about twice a week and they seem to have a close relationship. We are looking for a fun, good family that he can join from December 27th through May. If there are weekends or times that the host family is traveling and prefers that Raphael not join them, he does have options to stay for a weekend or short term with friends. Questions? Interest? Call Sylvia at (303) 956-3892.



Hill Super School Newscast

Watch your Hill friends on RMPBS, Super School News, by visiting this website:

<http://www.rmpbs.org/panorama/index.cfm/tag/Super-School-News/contentID/575/navID/521/Super-School-News.htm>

Click on the words "Watch School News" at the top of the bar. The passwords are:

username: superschoolnews

password: superKIDS1 (case sensitive)

or look for them on Channel 6, January 25-30, 2010.



PTA News

Dollar-a-Day Fundraiser. The push is on! The PTA wishes to thank the families who have contributed so far to the Hill Dollar-a-Day Fundraising Campaign. If you have not made a contribution yet, please consider doing so before the end of the year. The PTA has received many requests from teachers and we would like to be able to fulfill as many of those requests as possible. But, we need to hear from you to understand what we will be able to support financially over the next several months. Every donation helps, no matter the amount! Please use the form on the following page or on the school website at http://hill.dpsk12.org/files/09_10_DAD.pdf to make your contribution. You will be sent a confirmation letter acknowledging your tax-deductible donation.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!