

**Middle School Newsletter**  
**Fall 2019**  
**November 11, 2019**

Dear Middle School Families,

We want to keep you informed about what's happening in our middle school classrooms. Please be in touch with any of us if you have any questions or appreciations!

**Upcoming Events in November:**

- 8th Grade Final Product Event: One World Cafe, November 14th, 6:00 pm
- Adventure Dates: 7th grade: November 15th
- 6th-grade Celebration of Learning from 1-2 pm in the Middle School Humanities Classroom
- 8th Grade families should have gotten information in the mail about our sex-ed class, which will begin Nov. 18
- Last day of Fall Trimester is November 15
- 7th Grade Final Product presentation at the IRIC, 11 am-noon on November 21
- Thanksgiving Break, November 22-29 (no school on Friday, November 22)

**Middle School Crew**

Middle School Student Council elections were conducted and the results were announced last week. Congratulations to our council members:

6th Grade - Katie Ball and Nathanael Schab

7th Grade - Amanda Suvada and Ella Yeager

8th Grade - Kelton Long and Benjamin Schab

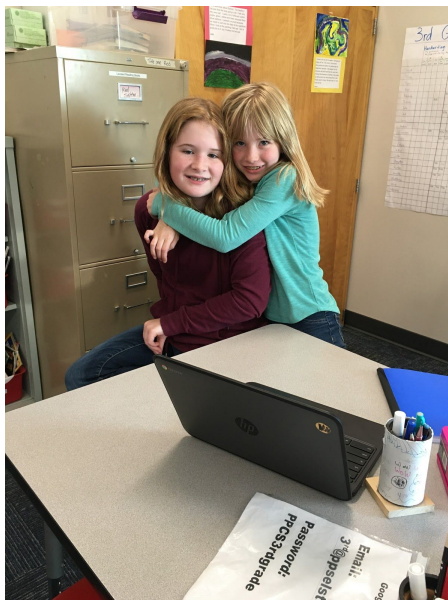
**6th Grade**

**Science Investigations:** We're ending our trimester with a fast-paced bang learning. Ask your student about the cell cycle (and mitosis) and meiosis. We'll end this week with a refresher on Punnett squares and passing along genetic traits.

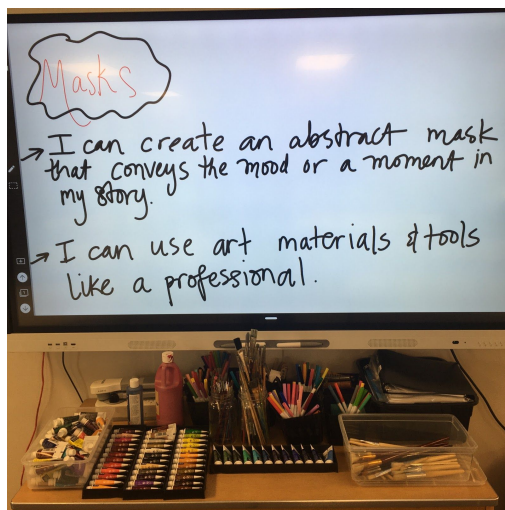
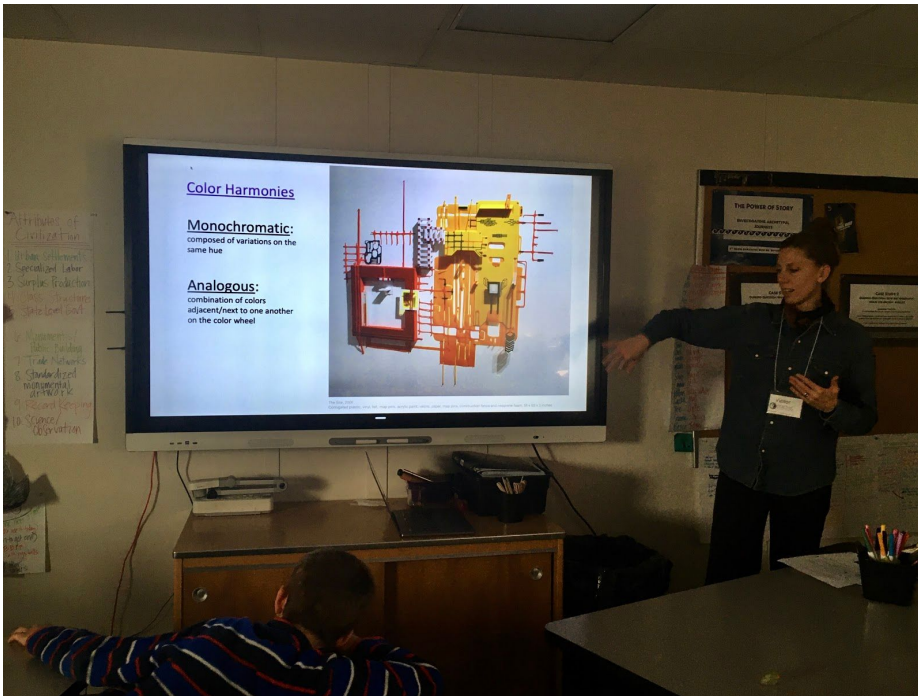
**Chinese:** Students are beginning to learn the words for fruits and beverages. Students will learn how to talk about what they want to have. They will try to distinguish and pronounce syllables with z, c and s. Students will take the final assessment of the trimester this week.

**Math:** We are continuing to work on our ratios and rates unit. Today we had storytime in math and read a book called If You Hopped Like A Frog. The book presents some silly scenarios using proportional relationships and showcasing the amazing skills of many animals. For example, if we could jump like frogs- we'd be able to jump over 100 ft in a single leap! We'll be continuing to study proportional relationships- and the many ways that we use them in our everyday lives- through the end of the trimester.

**Expedition:** Students worked with author Rachel Clark and 3rd-grade buddies to complete their journey stories last week. We are down to final edits for a few students. Students are working with artist Lauren McCleary to create abstract masks that complement their stories and are busy preparing to share their work with families this Friday from 1-2 pm!







## 7th Grade

**Chinese:** Students are going to learn to ask about someone's hobby so they can talk about hobbies and interests. Students will take the final assessment of the trimester this week.

**Math:** Students finished their scale drawings and they are beautiful! We'll be revising the plans with an expert this winter and hope to have a final plan to work from this spring. We are continuing to work through our study of probability and will be learning about simulations so that we can design our own simple simulations that model probabilities.

**Wellness:** We're finishing trimester maintaining the hydroponic system and completing circuits. We'll end the trimester with a dance party on Thursday!

**Expedition:** We concluded our research last week and are preparing our presentation, which will be at the UI IRIC Lunch and Learn on November 21 at 11am.

## 8th Grade

**Chinese:** Students are beginning to learn to talk about media, and they will be able to talk about their views on TV programs, movies, and advertisements. Students will take the final assessment of the trimester this week.

**Expedition:** The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade final product is this Thursday at One World Café from 6:00 to about 6:45. Students will need to be at OWC at 5:45. Students should look sharp, but not overly formal. The students already know this, but it is worth noting that there should be no shirts with text (we want to ensure that there isn't any distracting clothing). Families, friends, and relatives are invited to this event, so spread the word! In addition, students will be submitting a final essay regarding a proposed solution. This essay is due by the end of the week.

**PE:** We've still been doing a great job utilizing local fields and courts for PE. Our kids get a lot of exercise and movement during this time. With that said, many students are requesting to use PE time to work on their final products, so we will from time to time utilize our PE time for academic work.

**Math:** It's the last week of the Fall Trimester in the Middle School! However, because Math is a year-long course, we have a little bit of extra flexibility on when our "grading period" ends. I generally strive to wrap up the current math unit a few days before the end of the trimester. This gives us all a chance to get organized and allows us the opportunity to spend a day reflecting on our progress over the tri. Sometimes the timing is spot on- other times, our trimester grading period ends a week before or after the date of the actual end of the trimester. This means that you may not see an assignment or two on the first-trimester achievement report even though it was completed within the date range of the first trimester. Please feel free to email me if you have any questions!