

Walden School

Middle School News

THINK MORE SNOW!

January 7, 2008

Points of Interest:

- “Alice in Wonderland” video tapes \$10 funds to Ms. Russell for skiing!
- We are close to having enough points with the Campbell’s Soup labels to get an overhead projector! Please send in any you have.
- We still need parents to accompany 8th graders to Danville for Allied Arts classes the week of Jan. 7 If you can join the eighth graders, please call Martha Dubuque
- Monday the 21st–
In-Service No School

Skiing

Check your calendar. We are looking for chaperones who would like to join us when we hit the slopes at Burke. We will be skiing, snowboarding and snowshoeing.

The dates are:

**January 9
January 16,
January 23,
February 6,
February 13.**

Think more snow! Contact us!

What do seventh and eighth graders think inventions are?

“Something that helps society.”

“When people make things that haven’t been made.”

“A bunch of junk brought together to make a new item.”

“A new idea that has been pursued in a way that forms it into an object or objects. The best inventions are full of creativity.”

“When someone makes something new.”

“People creating different ideas and having other people try it.”

“Something manmade and used to make our lives easier.”

“A design or creation of an idea.”

“Something that someone made that works.”

“Any item ever made.”

“Someone creates something that has never been created before.”

“Something people think of that helps the world.”

“An original idea, not an innovation (an addition like adding a music device to a phone)”

“The creation of something new.”

“To create or come up with an idea for something.”

“An item made for completing tasks.”

“The purpose of inventions/inventing is to be able to do things that we couldn’t use before.”

“When you take a bunch of different little things and make something big.”

“Something that a person makes that doesn’t exist.”

“Something that was made that hasn’t been known to anyone.”

What do you think an invention is? Did you know all seventh and eighth graders will be inventors in our upcoming IDU? We cannot wait to see what they create!

“Thank you, parents, for returning your feedback about school closings. We received 29 back. The results were: 10 people preferred delayed opening when it is safe to do so; 10 people preferred not having delayed openings, and 3 people said either was fine. We will continue to close any time that it is not safe to hold school. When the weather will permit a delayed opening safely, we will do that.”
~ Martha Dubuque

INVENTIONS INTERDISCIPLINARY UNIT

This week we begin work on our inventions unit. We will learn about our challenge to pick a current invention, research it's past and project what it will be like many years into the future.

We will be focusing on four scholarly attributes this week:

- **Group work skills**
- **Note-taking/Summary**
- **Research**
- **Brainstorming**

All assignments and work will revolve around and build upon these skills in a differentiated manner.

IDU Homework

Monday:

Take the brainstorming ideas from class and generate a minimum of two or more ideas that spark your interest. Be ready to share on Tuesday. Complete Invention overview note-taking strategy.

Tuesday:

Use the multiple intelligence to create a mini-presentation on your partner to show their strengths as a learner. This will be presented on Thursday.

Wednesday:

Skiing at Burke! No homework.

Thursday:

Choose a topic with your partner: email or phone conversation to solidify Invention topic.

~Math~ ~7th grade~ ~Literacy~

Math: Students are returning to their Variables and Patterns books this week. We worked on a statistics project activity to bring in the new year, reviewing many skills we have learned this year so far. Students will share their survey results, which they analyze the data from, and made graphs of.

See your child's planner for specific statistics project each night. Students are having difficulty writing it down and completing the required problems.

~Ms. Russell

Literacy: Students are practicing their researching skills using a variety of resources to gather information. They will use an on-line resource, an encyclopedia and an educational resource to help gather information to prepare for their next major writing piece of the year. Students will review and discuss state benchmarks to help motivate their own writing style, while keeping an inventor's log to help sort daily information.

Students will also continue taking small segments of the grammar assessment this week.

~Math~ ~8th grade~ ~Literacy~

Math: Students are continuing working in the Algebra textbook this week. We continue to work on a warm-up and skills to start each class as we prepare for the skills assessment next month. We are working on explaining our mathematical thinking and working on problem solving in both class work and portfolio problems. We are working in chapter 2 this week, which focuses on "The Rules of Algebra". These refer to how to add/subtract, multiply/divide integers (positive and negative numbers). We will work on the "Speeding Ticket" portfolio problem this week as well in class and for homework.

The homework this week will be in the algebra book and will vary based on individual student pacing and where students are starting, check your child's planner. The expectation is that they should work 20-30 minutes a night on their math homework.

~Ms. Russell

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