

Mineola Middle School

Board of Trustees Report

September 2014

- **Enrollment - 361**
- **Science in the spotlight:**
- **Last week students worked on the iPads and the Macbooks to learn some of the apps and programs we will be using in our PBL's this year.**

- **1) They created lessons for their 10 science terms about space using the Educreations app. Each lesson consisted of an illustration of the term, the definition of the term and a recorded explanation of the term. Students will use these lessons to study for their Science terms test this week.**

- **2) They also used the iPads to join the Science Edmodo group and took a quiz over the interchangeable terms of inner and outer planets/terrestrial and gaseous planets. They also used their Edmodo account to cast a vote in a survey for their most favorite planet.**

- **3) Using the Macbooks they began writing a post on our class blog using Kidblog about a famous scientist who studied astronomy. Students will periodically work on their famous Scientist post throughout the course of the PBL. After posting, they will read two other student's posts and write constructive comments or positive feedback about these posts.**

- **This week students will continue to work on the iPads using the Spaceflight app to research information about the history and future of space exploration. They will also use the Solar**

System app and the NASA website to discover the physical properties of each planet to use with their first project, Space-cationing. In this project students will use their knowledge of the different components of our solar system to design a futuristic vacation package to a destination of their choice within our solar system. Using the Macbooks, they will create these vacation packages on a tri-fold brochure template in Microsoft Word.

Susan Witt

6th Grade Science

- **The seventh grade students have been learning the safety rules and the uses of various laboratory tools so they can conduct safe practices during scientific investigations.**
- **The students are also learning the parts of the microscopes and the triple beam balance. The students have been participating in labs demonstrating how to use the microscope, how to find the mass of an object using the triple beam balance, and how to find the volume of an irregular object.**

Debbie Taylor

7th Grade Science

- **8th grade science is investigating rotation and revolution of the Earth and Moon around the sun, which allow for Earth to experience day and night, the seasons and different phases on the lunar cycle.. We have used flashlights, globes, light blubs and styrofoam balls as models for our investigations along with exploring videos on the internet science sites to help us understand these concepts.**

Karen Newkirk - 8th grade Science

- **Volleyball has already begun with the 7th and 8th grade girls competing in a home game vs Grand Saline. They have also competed in a tournament in Van.**

The 8th grade girls won their 1st match in 3 games vs G.S.

The 7th grade girls won consolation in the Van tourney.

Their next game is at home vs Harmony on Monday 9-15-14.

(Dennis, Hawkins)

- **The 7th/8th grade boys Football teams begin play Thursday 9-11-14 in Lone Oak. They are on the road again Thursday 9-18-14 vs Wills Point. They will play their 1st home game 9-25-14 vs Paul Pewitt. (Tittle, VanDover, Self, Steadman)**
- **The beginner band has 94 students this year! The band directors believe this has to be the largest in school history- last year there were about 55. (Fisher, Best)**
- **MPact is a twice monthly student meeting from 8:00-8:20. The idea behind the program is that their lives will be impacted positively so they can go out to the world and impact others positively. This is during our PLC time where the teachers meet to discuss best teaching practices and student needs.**
- **Toscha Sneed and Sabrina Dean are parents of MS students. They are probationary officers for Smith county. They presented the importance making good choices. They shared pictures of the juvenile detention center and the daily procedure there. They showed the prison uniforms that were to be worn and the shackles used to transport them. These things were shown as a deterrent to making bad choices.**

They encouraged students to follow rules and make good grades. (Gould)

- **I have the East Texas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse scheduled to work their curriculum with all three grade levels this year, starting with 7th grade this week. (I believe Kendall has them scheduled for some Fridays with the student body during PLC meetings)**
- **I will be implementing Career Cruising with all three grade levels this year - students will explore and learn cost/academic requirements for acceptance in trade schools, colleges and universities; they will explore careers and what level of education is required, as well as look at high school courses/plans that will be required to enter certain fields/post secondary institutions.**
- **Kendall and I spoke with the juvenile probation officer that was here the other day about helping us bring Why Try programming connections and social media (anti-bullying, etc.) issues into some classrooms on Fridays - this schedule is pending.**

(Redding)

- **In P.E. we have a system to develop the over-all athlete. We work on a three-day rotation: Muscle Development, Cardio, and Sports Specifics.**
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- **Muscle Development days consist of movement and motion that targets specific muscles. Most of the attention is geared to proper form, full flexion and extension. Only weight applied is strictly body weight. Only resistance applied is with the use**

of therapeutic bands. The emphasis this week is on proper Body Squats and Push-Ups.

- Cardio days consist of interval running, pacing, and aerobic exercises. This week we are focusing on good knee drive and upper body motion by working in the bleachers.
- Sport Specific days correlate with the Athletic Season: Football/Volleyball, Basketball and Track & Field. This month we are specifically working Football with boys and Volleyball with our girls. Football is currently working on proper footwork and throwing technique, as well as framing the ball while catching. Girls are currently focused on over-hand serves and proper footwork.
- Our goal in rotating the activity schedule along with improving education on health and nutrition is to improve each individual physically and mentally.
- Coach Tittle
- Coach Stanley
- We are currently on the 2nd Chapter of a campus-wide book study called “Closing the Attitude Gap”
- The focus is on developing a climate and culture that fosters the proper attitude for student success. We are working on ourselves with students in mind.
- We have examined four things students encounter daily. What they “see”, “hear”, “feel, and “experience” on our campus and in our classrooms.
- We have our science team with Tittle/Dennis presenting Ch. 2 to the faculty on the 24th. Our “attitude” toward students - do I believe in them and do they “know” it.

- **This book study is a part of our “Aspire to Inspire” mission.**