

**Mineola Middle School**  
**Board of Trustees Report**  
May 2014

- Current Enrollment 339
  
- Bonnie Garrett's 6<sup>th</sup> grade math class just completed their zoo enclosure design project. They began the project by performing research observations at Caldwell Zoo. After observations, students were placed in design teams to create diagrams of unique zoo enclosures and develop a budget sheet for their design. They had to incorporate several area formulas applied to composite shapes, knowledge of perimeter, proportional reasoning, and financial decisions for budgeting.
  
- Ol' Town Rock and Roll PBL. Students investigated different types of rocks and their uses. Then using an architecture design app on the iPads they designed an auditorium for our school district and suggested types of natural rock as building materials. When their design was complete they used Google maps to place an image of their design in a location within our campus boundaries. Through their English class, students wrote a letter to the MISC school board defending our need for a district auditorium and the use of natural rock materials as building supplies so that the building could be used as an educational center as well. Students also listened to a guest speaker who was a former IBM geologist talk about different types of rocks and careers in geology.
  
- Kingdom Cards PBL. Students researched organisms in the six kingdoms of organisms. Then they designed cards with various facts and an image of 5 organisms for each kingdom using a trading card creator website on the MacBooks. Students created a card game for other students to play using their cards.
  
- Virtual Reality PBL. Students began learning about ecosystems by completing a vocabulary exercise. Then they created a digital vocabulary lesson for each of the vocabulary words using the Educreations App on the iPads. Students investigated the various types of ecosystems using the Fact 4 Me website then used this information to create virtual ecosystems using the Mine Craft app on the iPads. Students also worked with the Kindergarten classes to

discover information about various animals using the QR Code reader on the iPads during a scavenger hunt bingo game.

- Students are currently learning about the Solar System starting by researching the history and future of Spaceflight using an app on the iPads. Then they will research characteristics of various components of our Solar System. They will use this information to design an advertisement for a futuristic vacation package to a destination in our Solar System choosing from a variety of media options such as an infographic design, a technological poster, or a presentation on Prezi on the MacBook. (Susan Witt's 6th grade science class)
- The 8th Grade Band earning the title of "Sweepstakes" Band at the UIL Concert & Sightreading Competition. Bands have to earn a first division on both the concert and the sightreading portion of the contest in order to be considered "Sweepstakes". Also, all three middle school bands the 6th grade beginner band, the 7th grade intermediate band, and the 8th grade advanced band made Straight first divisions at the Soundpost Music Festival in Canton, TX last Friday, May 9, 2014. (Cavanaugh and Fulin)
- This year the students have learned the following programs/applications in Cindy Thatcher's Tech Apps class: Google Drive, Google Doc, Edmodo, Microsoft Word, Google Presentation, Microsoft Publisher, Prezi and Gmail. They use these applications weekly. All of my students know the keyboard, including some of the short cut keys, and can type anywhere from 12 words per minutes (WPM) to almost 70 WPM! In addition, they can navigate their way around the computer and the internet.
- As their teacher, I have used all of the above applications/programs this year, as well as the Balfour yearbook software, Remind 101, and the new Tyler SIS software. I already knew the Microsoft Office programs; the rest were new to me. In addition I became proficient on a Mac and using Mac TV. (Cindy Thatcher 6th grade tech apps)
- Thursday May 8th, the HS and MS choirs performed their spring concert under the direction of Michelle Fischer. A wonderful time was had by all who attended.

- Wednesday May 14th, the 8th grade students took a trip to the Perot Museum of Nature and Science in Dallas.
- Our 8th grade students took the 2nd administration of the STAAR test for Math and Reading on May 13th and 15th respectively.
- May 21st 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will visit the HS for our annual HS orientation.
- May 23rd 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be honored with a fun night hosted by parents at the “Luau” dance” here at MMS beginning at 6:00 pm.
- May 23rd all MMS students will participate in our outdoor events day.
- May 27th MMS will hold the NJHS inductions beginning at 6:00pm
- May 30th MMS will hold its annual awards day beginning at 1:15 in the cafeteria.