

Mineola Middle School

Board of Trustees Report

November 2014

- **Enrollment - 355**

- **History in the Spotlight:**

8TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES 2014-2015

- 1. Using TAG and TEK Score to track strengths and weaknesses of individual students.**
- 2. New Nystrom Atlas and on-line program for improving social studies skills.**
- 3. Students are using a consumable text/workbook to help improve reading skills and reading comprehension in the area of Social Studies.**
- 4. Guest speakers from the Wood County Republican women teaching Constitution basics during Celebrate Freedom Week.**
- 5. Several students are participating in UIL Social Studies and Maps, Graphs, and Charts.**

Bill Self - TX History

Students have discussed, researched, and created graphic organizers to demonstrate the impact of Spanish exploration and colonization on the cultural development of Texas.

Students researched their family's military heritage in preparation for Veteran's Day.

Jim Phillips - Texas History

Texas History finished Native Americans. Models of their homes are on display in the library.

We are working on Exploring Texas. To work on literacy and writing across the curriculum, we will explore the school's nature trail and write a personal narrative of our journey.

The MMS Junior Historians have secured an exhibit about Abraham Lincoln to be on display in April 2015 to mark the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War.

Haley Stanley - 6th Social Studies

In 6th grade Social Studies we are learning about the continent of North America. Students have studied physical features, exploration, colonization, expansion, and characteristics of the United States today. We will finish up our unit on North America by completing a research project over Canadian provinces and territories.

Science:

- **Virtual Reality PBL: In the year 5014, all existence is digital. The "real world" is no longer inhabitable due to global pollution. All living (biotic) and non-living (abiotic) things have been teleported into a digital world.**

As a digital ecologist, it is your mission to create a virtual ecosystem that can support and maintain digital "life". The ecosystem must contain a separate organism, populations, and communities.

- **Students are using iPads to create virtual ecosystems on the Minecraft app. The project requires students to research different types of ecosystems, the biotic and abiotic factors in the ecosystems, limiting factors in ecosystems, and what types of organisms live in the ecosystems. Then they plan what type of ecosystem they want to create and identify the organisms, populations, and communities within the ecosystem. Students will present and explain their virtual ecosystems using AirPlay on the iPads.**
- **The following MMS students will be attending the CAST (Conference for the Advancement of Science Teachers) conference in Dallas, Tx. on Nov. 20th to present a workshop along with Mrs. Witt entitled "Project Based Learning: Eliminating the Fear and Finding the Fun".**
- **8th graders: Andrea Valdez and Shaw Franklin**
- **7th graders: Alyssa Thompson and Isabella Tresca**
- **6th graders: Valerie Garcia and John Underwood**
- **These students were chosen from among 35 students that filled out applications to be considered for attending the conference. In the application, students had to explain what they liked best about learning through projects and why they thought it was important to teach other teachers about project based learning. These students will be representing MISD and will be speaking to science teachers and administrators from across the state of Texas.**

**Susan Witt
6th Grade Science**

- This six weeks, 7th graders have been studying the parts and the functions of plant/animal cells. As a PBL lesson, kids had to take on the role of "architects". Their job was to create a model of a new educational structure that would teach the people about the parts of a plant or animal cell. The model had to be an analogy to a cell, its organelles and functions.
- Example. How are the organelles of a cell like a house?

Debbie Taylor
7th Grade Science

- 8th grade science just finished producing food webs for a variety of ecosystems both terrestrial and marine. Students will be exploring forces and motions building roller coasters, and speed ramps in the next few weeks.

Karen Newkirk
8th Grade Science

Art:

Art classes have been studying art from around the world.

- Family Shield: England
- Cartouche: Egypt
- Gyotaku Fish Prints and Paper Notans: Japan

Shelly Self - Art

PE:

- 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.
- Muscle Development days consist of movement and motion that targets specific muscles. At this time we are implementing the dumbbells in to our workouts. The focus is in building a strong stabilized core while doing an upper and lower body workout. Muscle memory is developed as well as the students learn the proper form in each lift.
- Cardio days consist of interval running, pacing, and aerobic exercises. This week we are using high intensity aerobic workouts. Constant movement and motions develop lean muscle as well as elevate the heart rate to improve condition.
- Sport Specific days correlate with the Athletic Season: Football/Volleyball, Basketball and Track & Field. This month we are beginning basketball, working on basic skills in ball handling, passing and proper shooting form.
- As always, 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

