



7th Grade Newsletter

October 2016

Dear 7th Grade Families,

Please enjoy our first edition of the **7th Grade Newsletter** for the 2016-17 school year! In our newsletter, you will find important information about your scholar's work, upcoming trips, tests and other important dates as well as some action shot photos.

The year has gotten off to such a great start! It's been so exciting for us to get to know your scholars and we have high hopes for the rest of the year. Please let us know if you have any questions or comments. We love hearing from you!

News from the Classroom:

<i>ELA</i>	This month in ELA, scholars are continuing to analyze the thoughts, actions and language of characters in <u>The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian</u> by Sherman Alexie. Upcoming projects and assessments include an expository essay at the end of the unit in which students will be asked to analyze the evolution of one of the books characters, due late November. You can support your scholar by ensuring that they are practicing the skills taught in class by writing in the margins of their readings.
<i>Math</i>	This month in Math, scholars are continuing to deepen their understanding of ratios and proportions by working with scale models. Scholars will have the opportunity to complete quiz corrections on their Scale Models quiz (taken 10/24/16). The next unit in Math will be Number Sense; scholars will learn about rational numbers (positive and negative numbers). You can support your scholar by discussing the importance of negative numbers in the real world.
<i>Social Studies</i>	Scholars are studying primary and secondary sources about Christopher Columbus' first interactions with the Taino in the Caribbean. Upcoming projects include a classroom trial to determine who was responsible for the mistreatment and death of millions of Taino. Students will receive a project overview and rubric with more information and specific deadlines at the end of the week. You can support your scholar by asking them to talk about the project and their roles and by checking their planner to make sure they have important deadlines written down.
<i>Science</i>	Scholars have wrapped up their unit on Chemistry (during which they studied the Periodic Table of the Elements, atoms and atomic structure, chemical reactions, and phase changes). This month in Science, scholars are learning about the sound and light waves. We will be focusing on properties of waves (frequency, amplitude, and wavelength), the uses of Electromagnetic Spectrum in everyday life, and the dangers of noise pollution. Upcoming projects and assessments include a notebook quiz and the Habitable Planets Lab. Scholars will begin their Noise Pollution Projects soon. You can support your scholar by asking them to explain what they are learning in class and encouraging them to review their notebooks.
<i>Music</i>	Scholars are continuing to reinforce their knowledge of the fundamentals of music. We



7th Grade Newsletter

October 2016

are practicing complex rhythms, reading standard notation, demonstrating proper keyboard playing technique and performing alone and with a keyboard partner. You can support your scholar by encouraging him or her to join our lunchtime choir.

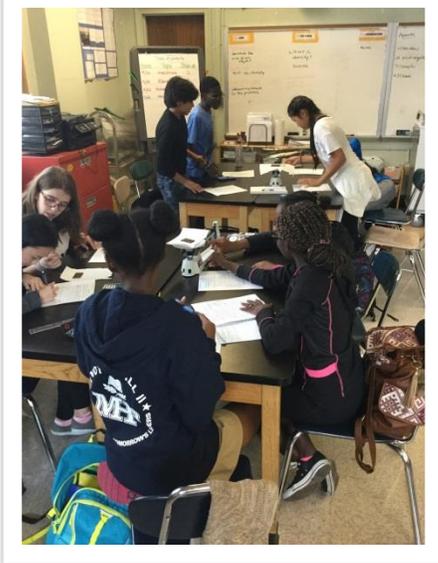
What's coming up this month?

- **Nature's Classroom** - Second installment payment due by November 4th
- **Halloween dance** - Friday, October 28, from 6-8 PM. We recommend sending your student with \$10 (\$5 for entry and \$5 for snacks)

Tips for Success:

- Engrade Pro is now officially up and running! Please check Engrade regularly. We suggest checking Engrade Pro weekly!
- Remind scholars to use their planners to copy down homework every day. Check your scholar's planner to make sure they are recording assignments!
- All scholars should **always** have an independent reading book with them.
- Scholars should **NOT** be carrying their Math or Science textbooks back and forth from school. These books should stay at home, or in their lockers if they are enrolled in the after school program.

(Photos from 7th Grade Explorations Density Lab)



Thank you for your support! Please contact us at with questions!

- MGennaro@motthall2.org (ELA)
- JKesten@motthall2.org (Math)
- BScanlon@motthall2.org (Social Studies)
- AWilliard@motthall2.org (Science)
- blee@motthall2.org (7R - ICT)

Best,
7th Grade Team