

7th Grade Newsletter

February 2017

Dear 7th Grade Families,

News from the Classroom:

ELA	This month in ELA, scholars are learning how to identify and analyze figurative language as we begin our poetry/drama unit. Upcoming projects and assessments include a final test, an essay, and a Shakespearean monologue performance, dates TBD. You can support your scholar by asking him/her to explain the figurative language s/he is finding in his/her book club book.
Math	This month in Math, scholars are continuing their work in number sense by learning about exponents and scientific notation followed by a unit on percentages. Upcoming projects and assessments include a quiz on February 22nd, and a project the first week of March. You can support your scholar by continuing to check your child's progress on Engrade and checking upcoming assignments on motthall2.org .
Social Studies	This month in Social Studies, scholars are learning to about the U.S. Constitution, branches of government, the electoral college, and the Supreme Court. Upcoming projects and assessments include a test on the branches of the U.S. government and a project about Supreme Court cases involving the rights of people under 18. Both will be due sometime in March. You can support your scholar by reading and/or talking about current events involving the executive, legislative, or judicial branches.
Science	This month in Science, scholars are finishing our Astronomy unit about the stars, our solar system, and the wider universe. Upcoming projects and assessments include the Travel Brochure Project, which we will begin after February break. Science Fair will kick off the week before break. You can support your scholar by checking their progress on Engrade. Suggested books and videos to watch together include <i>Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey</i> , <i>Basher Science Astronomy: Out of This World</i> , and <i>Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream</i> .
Latin	In Latin 7th grade students are continuing their more intensive study of Latin grammar; they are learning how noun endings reflect grammatical usage, how to express possession in Latin and how to use adjectives in Latin. To practice these concepts, they are working through readings and exercises in Chapter 4 of "Latin for Americans" and drafting and performing their own short Latin dialogues. You can support your scholar by ensuring that she/he is taking clear and well-organized notes.
Music	This month in music, scholars are learning about gospel, soul and rhythm and blues music. You can support your scholar by listening to Mahalia Jackson, Aretha Franklin, Ray Charles and James Brown.

What's coming up this month?

- February 5th: Third Nature's Classroom installment is due
- February 17th: Rapid dismissal. Mott Hall II after-school programs will be canceled; Sheltering Arms programs will go on as usual
- February 15-February 19th: No School - Midwinter Break

Tips for Success:

WHY READ 20 MINUTES AT HOME?		
Student A Reads	Student B Reads	Student C Reads
❖ 20 minutes per day.	❖ 5 minutes per day.	❖ 1 minute per day
❖ 3,600 minutes per school year.	❖ 900 minutes per school year.	❖ 180 minutes per school year.
❖ 1,800,000 words per year.	❖ 282,000 words per year.	❖ 8,000 words per year.
		
❖ Scores in the 90 th percentile on standardized tests.	❖ Scores in the 50 th percentile on standardized tests.	❖ Scores in the 10 th percentile on standardized tests.
<p>If they start reading for 20 minutes per night in Kindergarten, by the end of 6th grade, Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, Student B will have read for 12 schooldays, and Student C will have read for 3.</p> <p><small>(Nancy and Eberman, 1997.)</small></p>		
WANT TO BE A BETTER READER? SIMPLY READ.		

Thank you for your support! Please contact us at mgennaro@motthall2.org (ELA), jkesten@motthall2.org (Math), bscanlon@motthall2.org (Social Studies), awilliard@motthall2.org (Science), and blee@motthall2.org (ICT) with questions!

Best,
7th Grade Team