

7th Grade Newsletter

December 2016

Dear 7th Grade Families,

We hope that everyone had a nice Thanksgiving! We have a short, but action-packed December.

News from the Classroom:

ELA	This month in ELA, scholars are continuing to analyze literature from varying perspectives, as we read George Orwell's allegory, <i>Animal Farm</i> . Upcoming projects and assessments include an end of unit exam, as well as an essay and journal project (due dates are TBD). You can support your scholar by getting a copy of the book and reading along with us and/or continuing to check the calendar on the ELA class page.
Math	This month in Math, scholars are learning about operations with rational numbers and how to simplify expressions. Upcoming assessments include a unit quiz the first week of December. You can support your scholar by reviewing their notes from class, checking the Math Class Page for upcoming assessments, and using their workbook and Tenmarks as additional resources.
Social Studies	This month in Social Studies, scholars are learning about the English colonies and the role slavery played in their creation. Upcoming projects and assessments include a test on the 13 colonies and the Slavery and the Making of America project, due at the end of December (exact dates TBD). You can support your scholar by checking the social studies class page for assignments.
Science	This month in Science, scholars are learning about forces and motion, focusing on Newton's Laws. Upcoming projects and assessments include the Balloon Car Lab Report. We will begin crafting hypotheses and building Balloon Cars in the next week. You can support your scholar by asking them to explain Newton's Laws of Motion and by reviewing the Useful Links on the Science Class Page together.
Latin	
Music	This month we continue learning about the history of American music. We will discuss Duke Ellington and the significance of the Harlem Renaissance. We will also continue to progress at the keyboard, practicing independence of the left and right hand and learning to play chords. You can support your scholar by encouraging him to listen to jazz.
Dance	This month we are sharing our final dance works for our Elements of Dance and Nature unit. Scholars have planned, organized, choreographed, and rehearsed their own dance pieces expressing the elements of Air, Fire, Water, and Earth. In our next unit, we will explore the movement and history of cultural dances from around the world.

What's coming up this month?

- **December 1:** Honor Roll luncheons
- **December 5:** 2nd cycle of Explorations begins
- **December 7:** National Alliance on Mental Illness presentation to the 7th grade
- **December 9:** Winter Dance, 6-9 PM
- **December 22:** ACE Day

Tips for Success:

- Make sure you have a FOLDER and a composition NOTEBOOK for each class.
- Regularly clean and organize your folder, locker, and workspace at home! We suggest sorting your papers with every new unit.
 - For Social Studies, you may get rid of any documents from your Native Americas and Columbus units.
 - For Science, you may get rid of any documents related to your Chemistry Unit.
 - For Math, you may get rid of any documents not printed on pink paper from units prior to the Number Systems Unit.
 - For ELA, you may clean out everything EXCEPT documents printed on pink paper.
- Please note: ALL documents on PINK paper should be stapled, taped, or glued into your notebook! This is true of ALL core content classes.
- Scholars should always have an independent reading book. They are required to read three books this marking period.

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**