



Free Publication

Sixth Grade Scoop

Barry School, Cortland, NY

Current Topics

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Math

After break, we will begin our exciting unit of *Geometry*.



We will cover

- Basic Elements of Geometry
- Special types of lines
- Kinds of angles
- Triangles, quadrilaterals and other polygons
- Area and Perimeter of simple polygons

Science

- Making Fossils
- Presentation on Fossils
- Review of Rocks and Minerals
- Unit Test 2/12
- Introduction to the Human Body
- **Puberty *** A letter was sent home with students today regarding puberty. Please sign the permission slip and return it to school with your child.**



Important Dates

2/15-2/17	NO SCHOOL, February Break
2/19	Fossil Presentation, 6th Grade, 1:15pm
2/23	Fundraiser Begins (ends March 9th)
2/24	6th Grade Puberty Discussion
2/25	Founder's Day and Dinner
3/1	Ancient Greece unit project due
3/9	Fundraiser Ends
3/12	Wellness Day at Barry School

Social Studies

We continue to explore ancient Greece. Students are learning about:

- Key events and developments in Greek civilization
- **Athens and Sparta**
- Daily life in ancient Greece
- **Peloponnesian and Persian Wars**
- Greek alphabet
- Birth of democracy



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Reading and Writing News



Mrs. Snyder

The students continue working hard to correct punctuation and grammar in the "Daily Bite" each morning. Every other Friday, the students are quizzed on previous questions and are permitted to use their "Daily Bite" Notebook to answer the questions on the quiz. Students should be receiving very high grades on this work. We discuss our "Daily Bite" each and every morning and students are expected to make corrections and keep a complete, organized and dated notebook!

~Please keep reading. Students have all obtained new AR goals for the third quarter! Students should have earned approximately 30% of their AR points for the quarter already. Students who are behind on their reading read with Mrs. Snyder at recess on Thursdays.~

We have also begun enjoying our next whole-group novel, The Cay, by Theodore Taylor. Our protagonist, Phillip Enright fights hard to survive after being shipwrecked on a deserted island in the Caribbean Sea with an old man and a cat. Talk to your son/daughter about the events as they unravel in this suspenseful tale of perseverance!

Mrs. Rhyde

In **Writing Workshop**, students chose one story to draft, revise and edit. They studied the work of mentor authors to understand that a lead in a story really matters. Students learned that a lead can begin with a character's action or with dialogue. Students practiced writing leads after reading Peter's Chair, by Ezra Jack Keats and Bigmama's, by Donald Crews. Next week students will continue to work on creating leads by examining texts that begin with describing the setting to set a mood.

In **Reading Workshop**, students chose one character from the novel they are reading for AR and pulled out specific quotes from the book that proved various personality characteristics. Students will be practicing and applying this skill with characters from their own AR books and with other characters from other genres. They will be graded using the sixth grade 5 point rubric.

Students should be at approximately 40% of their AR points for the quarter by next Friday.

Mr. Caravella

In **Reading Workshop**, we are focused on keeping up with our goal of reading at least 7 new chapter books at our reading level before the end of the quarter. At this point, students should have completed 2 new books.

In guided reading, we continue to read Stargirl, by Jerry Spinelli, and Bridge to Terabithia, by Katherine Paterson. We have focused on identifying evidence and examples to support our thinking about these books. We also continue to explore the connections to our own lives and how we might act if we were the characters in the stories. Students reading Stargirl have also been identifying and discussing figurative language used by the author, such as similes and metaphors.

We have also begun a read-aloud of The Odyssey, retold by Geraldine McCaughrean. The Odyssey is Homer's epic tale of Odysseus, a Greek hero, and his adventure-filled journey home to Greece after the Trojan War.

Teammate of the Week: Sarah

Announcements



Barry Bulldog Bulletin Online!

Reminder: The Barry Bulldog Bulletin is online! Please go to:

<http://www.cortlandschools.org/teacherpage.cfm?teacher=1195>

and click "Newsletter" if you still haven't signed up!



We are on the web!

Please visit Mr. Caravella's class webpage and blog, which are located at the following addresses:

Website: <http://www.cortlandschools.org/teacherpage.cfm?teacher=834>

Blog: <http://mrcaravella.blogspot.com>



On Friday, February 19th Kristi Holz will be visiting Barry School with her fossil collection to speak to sixth grade students. She is an amateur paleontologist who has been a member of the Delaware Valley Paleontological Society based out of the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, PA for the past 11 years. We are very excited to view her collection and to learn more about being a rock hound!