



Sixth Grade Scoop

Free Publication

Barry School, Cortland, NY

Current Topics

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Math



ATTENTION: Mathematics State Testing for 6th graders will be next Thursday and Friday. Please send your son/daughter to school rested and prepared to do his or her best.

During the beginning part of next week, we will be reviewing all of the 6th grade math content. After testing is complete, we will be completing a math challenge, in which students will compete independently to answer challenging word problems across all mathematics topics. Students who earn the highest scores on the math challenge will be awarded a certificate at 6th grade Recognition Night.

Science/Health

We are learning about Astronomy!!!!

We are in the process of learning about:



- Constellations
- Comets
- Meteors and Meteorites
- Our Solar System

This week students completed a science challenge, in which students will compete independently to answer challenging questions across all science topics. Students who earn the highest scores on the science challenge will be awarded a certificate at 6th grade Recognition Night.



Important Dates



Social Studies

We will be completing our unit on ancient Rome and begin our unit on the Middle Ages. Students are learning about:

- Famous buildings of ancient Rome
- Rome's decline and the fall of the Roman Empire
- The origins and key beliefs of Judaism, Christianity and Islam
- The Dark Ages and Middle Ages
- The Byzantine Empire



5/5	Parent Planning Meeting for 6th Grade Recognition Night 6:30pm
5/6- 5/7	6th Grade State Math Exams
5/12	Arts Night and 6th Grade Musical here at Barry School (Formerly was "Open House")
5/17- 5/20	Book Fair RM 275
5/20	Spring Concert
6/3	Talent Show
6/17	6th Grade Tour of Jr. High in AM and Olympics in PM
6/18	NO SCHOOL, Staff Rating Day
6/22	Field Days
6/23	6th Grade Recognition (There was an error in last newsletter, which stated it was on the 22nd.)
6/24	Last Day of Classes (12:30 Dismissal)

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Reading and Writing News



Mrs. Snyder

As a class, we are now enjoying the novel, Rules, by Cynthia Lord. It is a hopeful tale about a girl who develops a friendship with a boy that has special needs, and is forced to learn the valuable lessons of acceptance and independence.

Next week in Writer's Workshop, we will explore the expository genre and will soon begin drafting "How-To" papers. We will talk about the importance of giving detailed directions, and each student will be assigned the task of writing instructions on a topic that he/she is good at. In previous years, the topics have ranged from cooking, baking, playing sports or musical instruments, etc. Once we have gone through the 5-step writing process, students will sign up for a day to present their papers to the class. Some may elect to actually demonstrate their task during the oral presentation. Dates have not been set as of yet. Please talk with your son/daughter about a suitable topic for the project.

~ Please be sure students are making time to read each night at home. During study hall, most students are taking the opportunity to complete their homework with the assistance of teachers and SUNY students. However, if students use class time to complete homework, they should be taking home a book nightly to read at least 30 minutes! ~

Mrs. Rhyde

For the past few weeks, we have been working hard to prepare for the New York State English Language Arts assessment; which we took this week. Students feel very confident with the work they produced on it!

Next week in Reading Workshop, we will begin Literature Circles. Students will read The Giver by, Lois Lowery or Tuck Everlasting by, Natalie Babbitt. Each day, students will be assigned a "job" that focuses their reading on a particular reading skill and have the opportunity to share their thoughts and feelings about the reading with their reading group.

In Writing Workshop, students have been writing a variety of poems such as a Hexadual, Haiku, Alphabet, and Limerick. They are having a blast sharing their writing with the class!

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 fourth quarter. At this point, students should have completed 3 new books. **Students who are behind on reading will read at recess on Wednesdays and on Friday afternoons to catch up.**

We have also begun a read-aloud of The Lightning Thief, by Rick Riordan. It is a story of a 12 year old boy, Percy, who learns that he is the son of one of the Greek gods. The story takes place in modern times and follows Percy and his friends on many adventures. We will explore and discuss connections between Percy's adventures and the Greek gods and myths we have learned about this year.

Next week, we will begin reading new novels in our guided reading groups. Students will read Hatchet, by Gary Paulsen, Island of the Blue Dolphins, by Scott O'Dell or The Outsiders, by S.E. Hinton.

Teammate of the Week: Justin

Announcements



Sixth-Grade Recognition Night will take place on Wednesday, June 23rd at 7pm. Thank you to parents that have attended the first planning meeting! The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 5th in the library at 6:30.

Congratulations to this month's CARES award winner

6S—Jacob Jensen

6R—Bailey Windhausen

6C—Coleton Reisman



STATE MATH EXAMS will be given next Thursday and Friday, 5/6 and 5/7. Please make every effort to avoid pulling students out of school during the tests. Thank you!

NYS Education Department Tips for State Exams

- ☉ **Present a positive attitude toward the tests.** Let your child know that you have confidence in his or her abilities. Explain that some of the test questions may be difficult and that it does not matter if other students finish earlier. Let your child know it is okay to proceed at his or her own pace.
- ☉ **Be sure your child is physically prepared on the day of the test.** Taking a test requires a student's full attention, so your child should have a good night's sleep before the test. Make sure your child has a healthy breakfast and a nutritious lunch.

(From The Grades 3-8 Testing Program in English Language Arts and Mathematics - A Parent's Guide, available at www.emsc.nysed.gov/3-8/parentguide/home.htm)

Garden Club

Volunteers needed! The Garden Club consists of eight students in the sixth grade, Mrs. Freeze, Mrs. Bieber, and Ms. Rosero. We meet every Tuesday and Thursday at 12:15 - 1:00. Recently, we went to the Board of Education and gave a speech. We gave each member a seed and hopefully they will soon be a part of this.

We need all the help we can get. Whether it be garden supplies or just your help. If you would like to help out in any way contact Ms. Rosero, Barry school principal. Thank you!

Attention Gardeners....

Building, mixing and transplanting of our Barry School Garden will take place on May 8th.

