



Broadalbin-Perth Middle School

January 2012

- 2** Updates from Voyager Team
- 3** The latest from Discovery Team
- 4** Enterprise Team Foreign Language
- 5** Team Adventure checks in Project Adventure Club
- 6** Art Club
- 7** From Our Parent Corner: When Good Fun Becomes Bullying
- 8** National Junior Honor Society Travel Club

A note from Mr. Bell Principal's Message

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday. We are getting close to our half-year mark. Interim assessments will be administered the week of January 17-20. These assessments will provide feedback regarding our students' academic knowledge of the New York State standards. The assessments will also better prepare our students for the upcoming state assessments occurring in April. Our second quarter marking period ends on Monday, Jan. 23, and report cards will be mailed home by Monday, Jan. 30.

Please visit our website, www.bpcsd.org, to view the New York State assessment calendar. As we get closer to the testing dates, we will post the dates of the tests and the daily schedules.

It is very important to contact the office, school counselor and/or teaching staff if you have any concerns or questions. The end of the school year will be here before you know it.

Thank you,
Mr. Bell



Students in Mr. Nacheman's sixth-grade science classes finished their unit on matter by mixing water and cornstarch and taking turns "walking on water." The activity helped the students learn that certain mixtures act differently when pressure is applied to them.

For the latest information on everything happening at Broadalbin-Perth, visit our district website:

www.bpcsd.org





Voyager Team

Mrs. Purcell's English Classes

Mrs. Purcell's English 6 classes finished reading *Old Yeller* by Fred Gipson, concluding our study of frontier life. We will be reading *Soldier's Heart* by Gary Paulsen after the holidays. This novel is historical fiction set during the Civil War about a 15 year-old boy named Charlie Goddard who really existed in 1861. He enlisted in the First Minnesota Volunteers at 15, lying about his age, and fought through most of the war. The students will learn about the war and the way of life during that time. They will also continue with spelling, vocabulary and writing pertaining to the novel.

Ms. Kaczor's Social Studies Classes

With the awesome civilization projects the children created in December, our first unit has come to a close. Our second unit will be on ancient Egypt and the near East, beginning on page 62 in the Social Studies Alive textbook. With this new unit, the students will be able to pick a project of their choice. Some of the choices include making a sugar cube pyramid, writing a poem (about Egypt) in the shape of a pyramid or making a mummy. I will have a list of theme projects, and you and your child will be able to decide which one to accomplish in January. Project information will be coming and there will be assigned days for each of my classes to submit their work. (The media center and my room just aren't big enough to house all of these projects at once!) Due to time restraints, the projects will not be presented in front of the class.

As always, I will provide extra credit opportunities. These opportunities are only available to students who do their work but may struggle with certain concepts and would like to bring up their grade. It is not a "safety net" for those students who chose not to do their homework or study, and the extra credit has to be approved through me first. All extra credit assignments will be reinforcement to what I have already taught in class. My extra credit work will come out after the holidays; it will be on Mesopotamia and it will have a deadline of about one week or so. (I will let the students know the exact date.) I will also keep a list of students that have been asked or have asked for

this assignment.

Please keep checking on the homework hotline and or your child's agenda/notebook. My daily homework is written on the whiteboard, as well as posted online.

Many students have come to me for pencils and paper and my personal supply is gone. Please replenish your child's learning tools. Thank you.

Thank you for all the support at home. Feel free to reach me anytime with any questions.

Mr. Nacheman's Science Classes

Sixth-grade science classes have recently finished the unit on matter. To culminate this unit, students and teachers were able to actually walk on water (mixed with cornstarch, of course)! Through this activity, students learned that certain mixtures act differently when pressure is applied to them. In reviewing our unit information, classes played a real-life Jeopardy game with clickers and sound effects. Mr. Nacheman and his students would like to thank the B-P PTO for providing the funds to help purchase the additional interactive Jeopardy game board for us to use.

For our next unit of study, the students will explore the properties of earth's structure. From the lithosphere to the exosphere, we will take a closer look at some places where no person has ever visited.

"Science, my lad, is made up of mistakes, but they are mistakes which it is useful to make, because they lead little by little to the truth." - Jules Verne

Continued on page 4

YEARBOOK

The 2012 BPMS Yearbook went on sale starting Dec. 1. The early bird pricing was in effect until Dec. 23. Also available this year will be the patron ads (\$2 or more) and personalization (\$4). Any questions, please contact advisors Mr. Baker and Mrs. Nichols.



Discovery Team

Mr. Sengenberger's English Classes

Students completed an extensive study of S.E. Hinton's *The Outsiders* by collaborating to create collages and maps, connect modern songs to the themes and characters, rewrite two scenes from a different character's point-of-view, select and analyze key quotations from the text, examine the poetry of Robert Frost in the context of the novel and use the research process to identify and organize essential information about the teenager who became such an influential author.

Please check the class website for notes, spelling/vocabulary lists, and homework assignments for the four core classes:

- ★ <http://blackboard.neric.org>
 - Username: ela7seng
 - Password: discovery

Student averages are posted each Monday in the classroom. Please ask your child to keep you updated!

Ms. Hawkins Math Classes

Students should have a scientific calculator for seventh- and eighth-grade math that they bring to class everyday. The cost is \$10-\$15 at Staples, Walmart, Target, etc. If this is out of your price range, please at least get a basic calculator at a "dollar" store.

Mrs. Thompson's English Classes

Mrs. Thompson's seventh and eighth-grade English classes are learning about the qualities of classic literature. We will read *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. Students will compile their thoughts and ideas on t-charts in their notebooks. Through careful thought and insightful discussion, students will discover the theme of this classic literature. They will have an opportunity to share their ideas through discussion, a writing piece and a poetry project. This is a fun, challenging unit and perfect for this festive season.

Mrs. Thompson's eighth-grade English classes are currently reading *Skipping Christmas* by John Grisham. This story offers "a hilarious look at the

chaos and frenzy that have become part of our holiday tradition." As an introduction to this story, students are asked to describe what they think Christmas is all about. Their answers always delight and surprise me. They responded with words like: family, sharing, caring, giving, tradition and being together with the ones they love. Students have an opportunity to see into one man's struggle with, as he refers to it as, the "nonsense" of the season. Students will share their ideas and thoughts in class discussion. They will be given the option of writing an essay or choosing a partner and creating a project together as the culminating activity and assessment.

Mrs. Sengenberger's Science Classes

Seventh-graders are completing a unit on chemistry and will begin studying Earth Science after the New Year.

Please encourage your seventh-graders to study for 10-15 minutes every night. This should help them retain information better. Remember, there is a state exam in science at the end of their eighth-grade year. Tests cover grades 5-8, so review is important.

I send out weekly emails that let parents know what to expect for the week ahead. If you are not receiving these emails and would like to, please contact me at sengenbergerc@bpcsd.org. Also, please:

- ★ Check the homework hotline nightly: 954-2735 (press #1, then #2 for Discovery Team).
- ★ Check my website <http://blackboard.neric.org>
 - Username: sengscience7
 - Password: smile

Mr. Baker's Social Studies Classes

Seventh-graders are studying Colonial America. Each student wrote a journal about eight aspects of colonial life. The journal included sketches and other creative touches that make the journal personal.

When we return from the holiday break, we will spend three days in the media center visiting learning stations about the American Revolution.



Enterprise Team

Mrs. Thomas' English Classes

English students are reading the novel *Skipping Christmas* by John Grisham, which provides an in-depth look at materialism and peer pressure from our society

Please check with your child on vocabulary as he/she should constantly be studying. Also, please make sure your child is reading a fiction or non-fiction book over vacation; try a share read and enjoy a novel as a family!

Mr. Hills' Math Classes

In Math 8, we just completed a unit on proportional reasoning. During this unit, we solved word problems by setting up proportions involving sale price, markups (like tax and tips), percentage of change, conversion units and part to whole. Our next unit will consist of two mini-units. The first part will focus primarily on the angles formed by parallel lines cut by a transversal. The second part of the unit will focus on transformational geometry (reflections, translations, rotations and dilations). We will be administering our mid-term exam toward the end of the second quarter.

In Integrated Algebra, we are working on a unit on exploring polynomials. In this unit, we multiplied and divided monomials and added, subtracted and multiplied polynomials. We will continue with our exploration as we apply factoring to polynomial expressions. We will be administering our mid-term exam toward the end of the second quarter.

Foreign Language

Mrs. Kopec's French Classes

The seventh-grade French classes are in chapter two in the French book. They are learning the verb "to be" (etre) and all its forms and have played charades recently using this new verb. Students have already learned how to make questions and make sentences negative in French. Also, in class, they are singing holiday songs!

The eighth-graders are learning about air travel in French. They role-played going through the airport and getting on the plane in French. Roles included a pilot, security, a passenger, luggage, etc. They are also learning holiday songs in French.

Voyager Team (con't.)

Mrs. Foust's Reading Classes

In December, we read selections from *Theme 2, Joining Forces*. The central theme focuses on working with others and how collaboration can bring great rewards. Students read about people who use problem-solving skills to face different challenges.

We began with a narrative nonfiction story, "The Great Serum Race," and paired it with an expository nonfiction, "Blazing Traits." "The Great Serum Race" is a story about a medical emergency in Alaska that involved a group of heroes, in which we explored "What qualities do heroes possess?" We moved on to learn about "Smokejumpers," an expository nonfiction story and paired it with "Incredible Recues," an expository nonfiction story, so that we were able to compare and contrast similar genres. We ended with an enjoyable Readers Theater: "The Case of the Fitched Feast Funds," a mystery and an expository nonfiction article from *Highlights Magazine* "Why Do Cliff Swallows Live Together?,"

Student Council

Student Council members, under the direction of club advisor Mr. Baker, sold angels for the Make-A-Wish Foundation at Rotterdam Mall on Dec. 17. Thank you for your support!

Mrs. Wojciechowski's Spanish Classes

In December, students in Mrs. Wojciechowski's eighth-grade Spanish classes finished a unit on sports. They learned Spanish vocabulary relating to various sports and the importance of soccer and baseball in Spanish-speaking countries. They are starting a unit in health and vocabulary related to a visit to a doctor's office.

The seventh-grade Spanish students are finishing a unit on schools. They can describe their classes, teachers and friends. Soon they will be starting a unit on the home and family.



Team Adventure

Mrs. Romriell's Home & Careers Classes

Grade 6

The sixth-graders are looking at how to incorporate color into our daily food intake, by using a "Rainbow of Colors" in our menu planning.

Grade 7

Seventh-graders have just finished the healthy choices unit and are starting to look at clothing and clothing construction and care.

Grade 8

Money Management has been keeping eighth-graders quite busy. They finished their Money Game of Life projects by the holiday break, and are starting to look at career exploration in the New Year.

Mrs. Campos' Health Classes

Grade 6

Sixth-graders are currently in the middle of our "Too Good For Drugs" program, sponsored by HFM Prevention Council. Mrs. Yvonne Major, the facilitator of the program, has been visiting weekly. The workbook that goes along with the program was due on Dec. 22.

Grade 7

We are currently studying nutrition and the fast food industry. Students were to complete the project "America Idle" by Dec. 22. This project is a public service announcement completed on poster board that will be displayed throughout our school hallways.

Grade 8

Students have the option of reading the novel *A Sudden Silence* by Eve Bunting over the holiday break for extra credit. The packet that goes along with it is due Jan. 3. Our final unit of study is sexually transmitted diseases.

Mr. Samek's & Mr. Willey's Engineering, Computer and Technology Classes

Not all engineering students are alike; neither is the engineering marketplace. With more than 25 major branches of engineering and 100 specialties, there is something for everyone who pursues a career in the field. Your personal goals, skills, and personality will determine which branch or specialty of engineering is right for you.

People have always held engineers in high regard; after all, engineers make the world go around. Most technological advances – televisions, computers, the Internet, the space shuttle, airplanes – can be attributed to the work of engineers. Engineers also have prestige because of the knowledge they have acquired through their commitment to finishing college.

Physical Education Classes

Students finished up the December volleyball unit with the Holly Jolly Volleyball Tournament. Students and staff bumped, set and spiked as holiday music played in the background. Teams were very festive in their uniforms and holiday attire. Great job to all who participated!

Throughout the month of January, physical education classes will be participating in our Project Adventure unit. Students will be working in groups to conquer the low elements, and will be able to attempt the high climbing elements as well. Sixth-graders will scale the vertical rock wall, seventh-graders will climb the crazy monkey ladder and the centipede, and the eighth-graders will perform the dangle duo.

Project Adventure Club

Eighth-Grade Project Adventure after school sessions will be held on Jan. 4, 5, 10, 12, 17 and 19. Our weekend-long field trip is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 20 – Sunday, Jan. 22. Think snow!



Team Adventure

Ms. Quackenbush's Art Classes

We view the visual arts as a discipline equal to all other disciplines that prove to stimulate and challenge the minds of today's youth.

The second quarter has started up and "The Middle School Art Studio Experience" is booming with very creative children here at B-P MS.

Grade 6

Sixth-graders finished up with the artist Edgar Degas and will now investigate famous artist Vincent Van Gogh and the style and technique of his works. Students will gain a greater understanding of the times and lives of both artists and people in that period. Students will also learn about working with line and color using the medium in which they will work. Art criticism operation sheets will also be used by students to help them analyze works. This work crosses the curriculum with history, science and English.

Grade 7

Seventh-graders are finishing working on line and movement through use of crapas and design of a tornado for the understanding of value change and creating movement through line and color. They will soon be starting on their self portraits. Students will learn the use of values in a painting by using photos of their faces to create different values of color by using black and white and another color. The students will use what is called monochromatic colors on their portraits. Famous artist Andy Warhol's work is a great example of this use of value changes and portraits altered in color. The students will also learn about certain paints and properties of that paint; they are gaining an understanding of the use of tools to paint and application techniques. This project crosses curriculum with history, science and technology.

Grade 8

Students are working on introductory level perspective designs and the understanding of one- and two-point perspective drawings. For example, they are creating floating shapes with one-point perspective and a castle with two-point perspective. They will also start on lessons in observational

Art Club

Ms. Quackenbush's Art Club of 48 members are now underway with creating fun projects. The students were given a year-long, tentative schedule at the first meeting. If students are involved in a sport, they can signup when the sport ends.

Students are divided into two groups because of large numbers in this club. Grade 6 is one group and grades 7 and 8 is the second group. Sixth-graders worked on a project called "self and who I am." This is an anti-bullying project. One exciting project is altered book journals that we will create and send to the Schoharie students who experienced disaster in their area. We will also try to fit in a museum visit and plan to have a group of students focus on photography. Students may also attend a three-hour course in stained glass, during which they will create a suncatcher ornament.

The Art Club will also participate in one of the oldest crafts from our area, Adirondack backpack basket-making. The students will weave a beautiful miniature basket in a 3.5-hour course taught by Ms. Quackenbush. Grandparents are welcome to join in the fun with their grandchildren in this traditional art. Ms. Quackenbush will also provide a Saturday adult education course creating large ADK baskets with straps. "It is a bit costly, but so worth it," she says. Interested adults can contact her through school email. She may be offering one eight-hour session for adults in the spring through the district's adult education courses.

Reminder, students must have their own ride home and must be picked up at the middle school directly after Art Club at 2:50 p.m.

drawing. This crosses curriculum with math and history.

Art students are making connections through art into other coursework. They are learning to think outside the box and be open and creative. This will be beneficial when carried over into all other academic courses, as well as their future endeavors. Art is "The Common Core Connection."

Remember, "EARTH" without "ART" is "EH!"



When good fun becomes bullying

The following story is from the B-P Parent Corner. Read more stories about issues facing parents and children of all ages at www.bpcsd.org. The B-P Parent Corner can be found under the Community tab.

Youngsters often like to kid around with each other, but what happens when kidding evolves into teasing, taunting, or bullying? Feelings usually get hurt—and sometimes the consequences can be far worse. What may seem like a simple joke can undermine an adolescent's self-esteem and lead to self-destructive behaviors. Statistics show that bullying is most common in grades six through eight, so it is especially critical to recognize the signs of bullying and to stop it before it becomes even more serious.

What is bullying?

Simply stated, bullying is treating others abusively. It can be as simple as name calling or as dramatic as stuffing someone in a locker. It takes many forms, but the objective is always the same—the bully tries to gain control over his or her victim.

Researchers break bullying down into four categories:

- ★ **Verbal**—This is the most common form of bullying for boys and girls. Bullies use words to harm others through name-calling, insulting or harsh teasing—most often about appearance, sexual comments or rumors (rarely racial or religious). The introduction of instant messaging, texting and tweeting enable students to verbally bully others over cyberspace.
- ★ **Relational**—Bullies often focus on excluding one person from their peer group and usually do so through verbal threats and spreading rumors. This is most common among girls.
- ★ **Reactive**—Bullies are individuals who are often both bully and victim. Typically victims first, they respond to victimization with bullying behavior later.

Interestingly, researchers found that bullies typically claim that their actions are just “joking.” Most bystanders believe that most teasing they witness is done with no mal intent. The victims, however, see the teasing as bullying. Regardless of a

Facts about Bullying

- ★ Most bullying cases go unnoticed and unreported by parents and schools because victims rarely tell anyone until the bullying reaches a point of extreme physical or emotional pain.
- ★ When bullying reaches the breaking point for victims, the results can be disastrous, as we seen in junior highs and high schools across the country.
- ★ Whether bullies find their way into a victim's life on the phone or in person, their abusive actions need to stop. If you hear about bullying at your school, stop by the front office and report it to the principal or a school counselor.

person's perspective, the facts are clear—any time a person uses words, behavior, or physical force to demean another person, it is bullying...and it is wrong!

Who bullies?

Bullying is not limited to the playground tough guy, nor is bullying limited to boys. Boys engage in bullying more frequently than girls, but both boys and girls bully. Boys are more likely to physically or verbally intimidate while girls generally turn to relational bullying.

Who is affected by bullying?

Bullying tends to peak in late childhood/early adolescence, making it a major concern for middle and junior high schools. A 2001 study reports that nearly 30 percent of all middle school students were more than occasionally involved as a bully or the victim of bullying behavior. Most of these incidents occurred at lunch or recess, but also occurred outside of school and during class.



bullying

continued from page 7

The victim is the person most obviously affected by bullying. Without emotional support of family and friends or in cases where bullying is ongoing or severe, victims are at greater risk of academic problems, absenteeism, loneliness, loss of friends and harming themselves.

Ironically, bullying also affects the bullies. They are more at risk for such problems as delinquency, alcohol and drug abuse, and dropping out of school. In addition, both bullies and victims have been found to be more depressed than students who are not involved in bullying.

What are the signs of a bullied adolescent?

A victim of bullying will seldom volunteer information. Instead look for signs such as:

- ★ Mood swings including frequent crying; acting depressed.
- ★ Withdrawing socially.
- ★ Complaining frequently of illnesses; not wanting to go to school or avoiding certain classes.
- ★ Bringing home damaged possessions or reporting things “lost.”

- ★ Comments of being picked on or persecuted.
- ★ Talking about running away.
- ★ Attempting to take protection to school, such as a stick, rock or knife.

What can a parent do if you suspect your child is being bullied?

If you suspect your child is a victim, sit down and have a long patient talk. Ask lots of questions and be prepared to listen for any signal of problems. If your child reports feeling bullied, don't laugh, shrug it off, or explain that it's “just the age.” Be prepared to speak to teachers, coaches and other adults in charge because they may not have noticed the behavior. A parent may ask for a meeting to discuss what is happening. Parents also can develop relationships with parents of other children in the same neighborhood or school. When several parents know about the bullying, or have children who are affected, they may be in a better position to approach school staff members.

For web resources and books on the topic of bullying, please visit www.bpcsd.org. The B-P Parent Corner can be found under the Community tab.

National Junior Honor Society

Members held a Subway cookie sale during lunches on Dec. 14 and 15 to help offset the costs of a shopping trip for local families in need. The group then met after school at Target on Dec. 15 to purchase the needed items.

A special thank you to Lisa Kordyjak and Tracy Slezak for helping chaperone and pick up the cookies for our group.

The Senior Citizen Reception held on Friday, Dec. 16, was a great success! We thank everyone for their cooperation and participation in the event.

Travel Club

Seventh-graders have chosen Philadelphia for this year's two-day, one-night trip, tentatively scheduled for June 1-2. Eighth-graders will be visiting Washington, DC for three days and two nights at the end of April. Once the trips are approved by Mr. Bell and the Board of Education, more information will be provided. The advisor for this club is Mr. Baker.