

The Middle Connection

School Newsletter



www.lodi.k12.wi.us

Term 2, 2019-20

UPCOMING DATES:

Forensics News:

Lodi Middle School Forensics is in full swing. In January, practices were organized, with approximately 65 students getting ready for our first meet in March. We have a great group of students ready to develop their speaking skills with prose, poetry, group interpretation, plays, and solo acting pieces this year.

Our coaches, Sally Chapman, Michelle Howe, Alicia Raisbeck, Carl Nordstrom and Susan Torgerson, are working each week to help these students gain the confidence and skills they need for our two away meets.

We travel to Poynette for our first meet on **March 9th**, and our second meet is in Columbus on **March 17th**. Scores are given to the students at our first forensics meet, coaches from other participating schools are taking on a second role as judges at that time. We use those scores to focus on particular skills that may need to be addressed at practice. At the second forensics meet, students will receive ribbons, and certificates of participation which are awarded by their coaches at a later ceremony.

We hope that as parents/guardians, you are involved in the practice of the forensics pieces at home! Each week I tell my groups that they should practice in front of mirrors, or with family members to get the skills they will need to succeed. The forensics program in this school district is one we are proud to be involved with, and the success we have at the middle school is reflected at the high school level as our students continue with this co-curricular.

Susan Torgerson, Advisor



- Feb. 12th
6th Grade Overture Trip
- Feb. 14th
iPod/Hat Day
- Feb. 20th
Parent/Teacher Conferences
3:30-7:30 Scheduled
- Feb. 21st
No School – Staff Collaboration
- Feb. 24th
District PAC Meeting
6:00pm HS LGI
- Feb. 29th
District Solo & Ensemble
@ Lodi HS
- March 1st – March 7th
8th Grade Washington DC Trip
- March 9th
8th Grade Drug Education Day
- March 16th
MS/HS PAC Meeting
6pm HS LGI
- March 20th
No School/Staff Collaboration
- March 23rd – March 27th
Spring Break
- April 3rd
End of Term 3
- April 10th
No School – Good Friday

SUPER 6TH GRADE HAPPENINGS:

The recent science unit involved learning about the environment and “Engineering an Urban Landscape”. Students learned the Engineer Design Process steps, learned about ways that environmental engineers landscape cities and then were environmental engineers themselves and engineered their own city landscape to prevent water runoff. 6th grade science students have also been exposed to STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) activities. STEAM events are planned for the rest of the school year.



Students will soon be learning about variables and how they affect outcomes. Students will be conducting controlled experiments titled “Swingers,” “Lifeboats,” “Flippers,” and “Airplanes” and finally completing their own controlled experiment. This is in preparation for the upcoming Lodi PTO sponsored Science/STEAM Fair on April 14. All students are encouraged to participate and will receive extra credit in science class plus a chance to win fabulous prizes! Information on the science fair will be given out in class and is also available in the main office.



In December, 6th grade students made their way to elderly care facilities in Lodi including Haven Hills, Lodi Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Our House and Settlers Trail. Students sang holiday carols and visited with the residents. It was a very enjoyable morning. In January Cascade Mountain welcomed us for an awesome day of skiing and snowboarding. The weather was perfect and as students said, “We had a blast!” “It was an awesome time learning how to do something I have never done before.”



Librarian Paula Tonn and library assistant Laurie Gwynne worked with Ms. Dean to come up with this engaging way to introduce books to our 6th grade language arts students. Students came into the “restaurant,” the Book Café, in the LMC, ordered books from the menu, and left with a book that connected with their interest area. What a great way to engage students!



Stupendous 7th Grade News:

Rendler - Language Arts

Amazing Authors -Children's Books

Our second quarter creative writing project began mid-October. Students began the long and tedious process of writing, editing, revising, and illustrating an original children's story. While each student spent time revising their own work, the most impressive part of the unit was the peer editing process. Students collaborated on a daily basis to provide feedback to each other and eventually learned that the writing process requires many revisions and a lot of patience. A new component was the addition of our online Ebook. Students uploaded the completed hard-copy into a program called Book Creator which also records their voice. I can honestly say that listening to their stories brought the creativity and enjoyment to an all new level of "incredible!" I do hope you enjoy both reading and listening to these wonderful authors!



] Amazing Authors!
HARD AT WORK!



"Start writing no matter what. The water does not flow until the faucet is turned on."
-Louis L'Amour

In addition to writing, we continue to work on the basics: grammar, vocabulary, annotating, and argumentative writing. Our STEMS program has begun and students have easily transitioned into their new routine. Understanding the Greek or Latin prefixes increases their ability to comprehend unfamiliar words, by knowing the meaning of the word parts.

We have also begun the second book of our Breadwinner Series, *Parvana's Journey*, and I continue to be impressed by their compassion and empathy for the characters in this series. Our assessment for the first book, *The Breadwinner*, was based on the importance of symbolism. Students chose a symbol to represent a part of the book that had a significant impact on their learning. The visual art was accompanied by a written response that explains and justifies their choice. Once again, they were quite impressive.



Finally, we are participating in the Snail Mail Relay which will continue throughout the year. Students chose a middle school and wrote a letter to the 7th grade English students hoping to get a response. We have a large map on the wall and used push pins to track where we sent our letters. The first responses have come back and students were very excited to learn about other schools.

I am looking forward to a new quarter!

7th Grade Social Studies:

At the beginning of the third quarter, we will complete a quick U.S. Geography unit that will include topics of regions, immigration, and poverty. Our next unit will be about Native Americans. Students will work in groups to complete a project about a Native American tribe with the emphasis on how the geography and climate affects how a tribe lives. Students will also be responsible for researching and presenting on two U.S. states during the second semester- one for the third quarter and one for the fourth quarter. We will also continue our Current Events discussions and analyzing editorial cartoons through the remainder of the year.

7th Grade Science

Students in science have just begun our new unit on Meteorology. This unit will take us through spring break.

Here are some learning targets students can expect to complete during the unit.

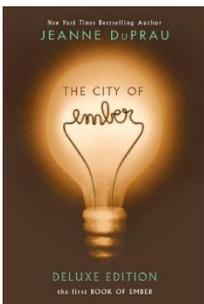
- I can measure weather parameters such as temperature, air pressure, humidity, wind speed and direction by using a thermometer, barometer, psychrometer, and anemometer.
- I can construct a cloud identification book by assembling pictures of the three main cloud types.
- I can make short term predictions in weather by reading current weather maps.
- I can find patterns that connect natural processes and human activities to changes in global temperatures by analyzing data.
- I can share tips for staying safe during severe weather by creating an informative poster.

Students crushing a soda can to demonstrate the power of air pressure.



Torgerson - Language Arts

In Ms. Torgerson's language arts class we've just finished a unit on public speaking. During the month of December, students were asked to share a favorite holiday children's book with the class. After selecting their book, they practiced reading aloud, and were given multiple opportunities to listen and learn as I read aloud my favorite books, too. We all enjoyed hearing these stories, and we became aware of the variety of children's books that brought us joy throughout our childhood years.



Currently, we are reading a book by Jeanne DuPrau, *The City of Ember*. My classes are enjoying the discussions we have surrounding this city filled with problems. It is running low on resources, has occasional epidemics, with an unreliable power supply. There is also corruption in the government leadership, and the educational system does not encourage creativity or intellectual growth. One can only imagine how 7th graders creative minds may deal with situations such as these! It is a great book, and oftentimes helps us be much more appreciative of all the blessings we have.

Of course, we are also working on English (nouns), and writing an essay about recess...it's benefits and drawbacks! We've just started our unit on STEMS, which follows students throughout their high school years. We introduce 10 words each week, and take a simple quiz to show what we know!

This year is zooming by, and we have so much learning left to accomplish!

EXCEPTIONAL EIGHTH GRADE HIGHLIGHTS:

Winter Activity Trip:

Every year the students of Lodi Middle School enjoy the opportunity to participate in our Winter Activity Day. During this day, the students are able to participate in skiing, skating, ice fishing, or tubing! This day provides the students with a new environment to learn and grow their skills outside of the classroom.

It is always a joy seeing our students engage in new skills and make healthy choices. While students are skiing, skating, ice fishing, and tubing, the students are building their independence and learning how to interact appropriately out in the community. At Cascade and while ice skating students are able to challenge themselves as they learn or develop a large motor skill. While ice fishing, the students are able to build connections with their classmates as they share and learn new fishing skills and techniques. This day provides the student with a new environment to learn and grow their skills outside of the classroom. Hopefully the experience inspires the students to continue to be active during the winter months.



Around Our School:

Learning Targets

As a district, much focus has been on developing a high quality curriculum for all students. John Hattie, educational researcher, highlights how important it is for teachers to be clear about what students are expected to learn each lesson. According to Hattie, *teacher clarity* is one of the most important factors of student achievement. Robert Marzano, another educational researcher, agrees; he includes *lesson goals* in his top five list of factors that affect how well students perform at school.

Throughout the school year, teachers have been developing daily learning targets that align to their curriculum standards. A learning target is a “daily-sized” chunk of learning written in student-friendly language that states what a student should learn and how they will show that they have learned it. Learning targets are intended to provide clarity in communication so that students can become active agents of their own learning. As a district, our goal is to have learning targets shared with the community via the school website by the start of the 2020-2021 school year.



2019/2020

On November 1st, our language arts teachers received their lists for the 2019-2020 Spelling Bee! Each grade level determines how they will proceed with this information, knowing that we will host a “MS Spell-Off” in January. Students are encouraged to practice words, and challenge themselves with the lists they are given. Many classrooms hold multiple mini-spelling bees to help students practice.

On January 16th, our school wide spelling bee was held in the LMC, with Ms. Gwynne, Mrs. Cunningham, and Ms. Torgerson hosting the students who represented each of the three grades in our school. Twelve students competed to become our champions for the Regional Spelling Bee at Pardeeville High School on February 4, 2020. Two students, Norah Gruel (6th) and Adysen Young (6th), spelled their way to success, and represented us at Pardeeville. Mrs. Suzanne Schmelling accompanied these students as their chaperone. Congratulations to Adysen Young who finished in 2nd place! If the first place finisher is unable to make the State Bee in March, Adysen will take her place.

The winner of the Regional Bee will compete in March at the Badger State Spelling Bee. Top 3 winners of the State Bee will advance on to the National Spelling Bee in Washington DC in April.

Congratulations Norah and Adysen!



Social Worker's Scene

Term 2

February marks Black History Month. It is an annual observance originating in the United States. We honor the triumphs and struggles of African Americans throughout U.S. history. This month is a tribute to African American men and women who have made significant contributions to the United States and to the world in the fields of science, politics, law, sports, the arts, and many other fields.

"We must come to see that the end we seek is a society at peace with itself, a society that can live with its conscience"

~ Martin Luther King, Jr.



A "Big Shout Out" to our LMS Students that run our School Store!!!! Students from Mrs. Huisman's class operate our School Store, which provides students with the opportunity to purchase school supplies! The store is open Monday-Friday in the Commons Area prior to school starting! Thank you Mrs. Huisman and students!



As a reminder, we want students to know about the "LMS See Something, Say Something App". The App allows students to report unsafe behaviors, issues of bullying, name calling, threats, etc. Students can remain anonymous. The app can be found on our District webpage and mobile devices.

Look for this Icon:



6th Grade Honor Roll

High Honors (4.00 GPA)

Makayla Burmester
Brielle Burros
Norah Gruel
Noelle Haak
Sophia Himes
Marah Lane
Andrew Lembcke
Hallie Nolden
Isaac Prosek
Scarlett Reppen
Beau Ripp
Brody Ripp
Sabrina Schmidt
Sydney Schroeder
Megan Smith
Bailey Stark
Mia Walstad
Faith Wetzel
Rylie Wilcox
Olivia Woodburn



Honors (3.5 – 3.99 GPA)

Sophia Andrews
Sawyer Baron
William Bercher
Lexie Bishop
Karrell Branch
Alexander Breunig
Riley Browne
Gracie Clary
Ashton Clemens
Mikayla Dachel
Natalie Detert
Ayden Fandrich
Raina Frey
Katherine Hall
A.J. Hernandez
Fayth Hesselberg
Maya Houdek
Chase Hunter
Oscar Johnston
Grayson Koeppen
Adelyn Kopp
Elise Krumpen
Kyle Kurt
Trevor Kutz
Micah Lee
Charlotte Leu
Nathan Lichucki
Briahna Lund
Brayden Newcomb
Collin Norland
Taylor Reese
Lucas Rehlinger
Darla Ripp
Jake Ryan
Flor Salto
Whitney Schoenberg
Bryce Skalitzky
Rowan Skarda
Annika Smith
Skyla Strangeway
Noah Streit

Honors (3.5 – 3.99 GPA) contin.

Anabelle Strong
Theo Traeder
Misael Valencia
Madalynn Weber
Adysen Young

Honorable Mention (3.0 – 3.49GPA)

Tyler Anderson
Keleigh Bannach
Lilly Bartholomew
Ella Best
Jack Bozacki
Everett Clemens
Hannah Davis
Malinaly Fernandez Aguillon
Taylor Hoiland
Zander Kellogg
Madison McMorris
Theodore Melland
Grant Miller
Alannah Moen
Baley Monette
Jakob Newman
Weston Olsen
Andre Pardo
Vala Pollock
Simon Ricks
Caden Ripp
Giselle Roekle
Trenton Schlender
Riley Smith
Navaeh Statz
Ava Stephens
Kenneth Taylor
Anna Thony
Kelina Xiong



7th Grade Honor Roll

High Honors (4.00 GPA)

Izabeth Bahe
Ava Ballweg
Kaden Ballweg
Vivian Beld
Mayah Bonafield
Michael Cahalane
Addison Crane
Braedon Dorshorst
Preston Follis
Bailey Franklin
Kaydeen Hall
Natalie Hellenbrand
Olivia Heyroth
Alexander Jackson
Ezekiel Jackson
Isabelle Johnson
Natalie Kelley
Samantha Leatherberry
Josephine Lincoln
Tessa Pertzborn
Summer Rake
Nicholas Rentmeister
Brianna Schmelling
Christa Statz
Abigail Strong
Tatum Tatro
Keegan Taylor



Honors (3.5 – 3.99 GPA)

Landon Best
Grant Beyer
Robert Boisen
Dakota Franklin
Jonah Giese
Harlie Gjavenis
Adrianna Gonzalez
Nellie Hatch
Jadyn Hellenbrand
Fatime Ibraimi
Hayden Johnson
Samuel Jones
Sadie Koenig
Zion Kurtz
Caleb Lister
Caleb Lord
Grace Morgan
Liam Mueller
Tyler Oberling
Jackson Rentmeister
Caleb Rotzoll
Kathryn Schilling
Elijah Schneider
Sydney Simpson
Chase Stanek
Catherine Zajicek



Honorable Mention (3.0 – 3.49GPA)

Addison Bakke
Lexie Birchler
Sabriyya Chaplin
Benjamin Crary
Audrey Dallman
Cyan Erickson
Rejanais Hansen
Kyle Hoffman
Aiden Johnson
Matthew Lincicum
Deanna Loewenhagen
Alyssa Lovik
Dylan Ness
Amber Norland
Michael O'Mara
Tony Omosebi
Dakota Pierquet
Lucas Ripp
Shelby Ripp
Ryan Rolfe
Connor Skrum
Jamie Skrum
Bentley Smith
Ayden Trimble
Abigail Wagner
Amy Wenger
Isabell Wipperfurth
Dominic Wipperfurth
Laurence Wood
Mason Yates



8th Grade Honor Roll

High Honors (4.00 GPA)

Anna Balfanz
Kogen Baron
Camila Becerril
Walter Beld
Mason Breunig
Lauren Burros
Anastasia Etlicher
Allison Gray
Gabriella Guethlein
Elaina Hatley
Jayce Kolinski
Brianna Kurt
Gianna McMahon
Hallie Miller
Morgan Paulson
Connor Pecard
Miranda Risher
Isabella Roen
Madelynn Scherer
Anna Stratton
Alexis Wilcox
Noah Winter



Honors (3.5 – 3.99 GPA)

Hailey Braatz
Zachary Brisky
Gianna Burke
Jocelyn Chambers
Crew Clemens
Kylar Clemens
Samuel Clepper
Brooklyn Endres
Rylee Fandrich
Anna Florin
Zachary Frank
Sarah Griffing
Aiden Groskopf
Rosalee Heidenreich
Tyler Hellenbrand
Noah Houdek
Jameson Keichinger
Evan Kite
Joshua Klann
Henry Koeppen
Alexis Krakow
Abigail Krey
Brayden Kurt
Mason Lane
Thomas Lund
Blake Meier
Courtney Meitzner
Ella Moran
Samantha Nyffenegger
Brady Puls
Skyler Rose
Owen Smith
Lucas Thistle
Grace Wetzell
Paxton Wyman



Honorable Mention (3.0 – 3.49GPA)

Mitzari Alvarez-Ortega
George Breiwa
Aryana Chaplin
Evan Clary
William Eckstein
Sydney Erickson
Dayne Flad
Henry Fowler
Alyssa Gag
Alayna Graf
Isaiah Groskopf
Anna Kittleson
Paxton Krugman
Benjamin Lichucki
Drew Lochner
William Long
Harley Mahlum
James Miller
Spencer Olson
Quetzal Peterson
Roman Richardson
Trebtor Roddewig
Owen Rosga
Gavin Sargeant
Benjamin Schultz
Haylie Schwab
Benjamin Skellenger
Holden Smith
Rowan Thistle
Damon Toothman
Lea Traeder
Kaylan Warren
Nicholas Week
Lillian Yauch
Nolan Zopfi

