

Hunt Middle School



December, 20 2019

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Upcoming Events

December & January

No School for Students 12/23-1/3

Principal Coffee 7:30-8:30am 1/20

Early Release 1/20

Quarter 2 Ends 1/24





Principal's Note

As the first part of the year winds down, I am able to reflect on all the amazing things our students have been doing over the past few months. For example:

- Our students reading the novel *March* by Senator John Lewis and then going to the Flynn to see him speak. Some of our students were able to meet him and ask him questions.
- Team Calypso worked with Champlain College students to create "guerilla art" projects. These projects sent messages about beauty and inclusivity out into the world by installing them around the Champlain campus and at Hunt.
- 7/8 grade teams will be meeting cross-team to summarize the year in news events in a project called "Year in Rap".
- Team Hero learning about Dia de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) and then doing a presentation that reflected someone they wanted to celebrate.
- Climate Change March/Walkout
- Bands and strings mid-year concerts and how much they have learned in such a short time.

Not only have students been learning but also the staff has been attending district-wide workshops that focus on effective instruction. Each staff member was able to choose a strand in an area of instruction that they would like to improve. Some examples of strands are:

- Culturally Responsive Classroom Management
- Teaching Emergent Multilingual in a General Education Setting
- High-Leverage Instructional Strategies





I am grateful that I get to spend much of my day working with your children. They continually amaze me with their curiosity, wit, and humor. I wish you a restful break and Happy Holidays.





Team PHOENIX:

Many of our team and class updates can be found at our team Twitter feed (<https://twitter.com/PhoenixLearns>) and team blog (www.hmsteamphoenix.blogspot.com). Please visit them and be sure to sign up/follow for updates. We welcome your feedback as we seek to make these tools as helpful as possible for you all.

Language Arts

Students are studying *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson. This National Book Award Winner novel is set in verse and it dovetails with the study of the Civil Rights movement and the book *March*. Our work will help students learn how to write descriptively using figurative language.

All language arts students should be reading at least five times a week, 30 minutes a day. If they say they've taken care of that requirement at school, reading at home is still expected!

Ms. Hickey can be reached at lhickey@bsdvt.org.

Global Citizenship (formerly known as Social Studies):

We've spent the past several weeks doing research projects on ancient civilizations. We are now looking at how those civilizations used natural resources which will lead us to a unit on sustainability.

Additionally, you should know that every Friday, we learn about and discuss current events. I encourage you to check in with your child to see what they are learning and help them process through any questions or reactions to the material.

This year, we are using the Class Pages feature within PowerSchool to track daily work, learning goals, assignments, etc. Please have your child show you this tool





which you can find at

<https://bsdvt.learning.powerschool.com/jsbardel/globalcitizenship2019-20>

Ms. Fabri can be reached at jfabri@bsdvt.org.

Science:

- Students have just finished a unit on how the Earth has changed over time.
- They have looked at the layers of the Earth and how we can predict their relative age based on index fossils, geologic events, cross-cutting events and the law of superposition.
- In January, we will begin learning about the climate and how is it changing. This work will be used later in global citizenship and language arts.
- This year, the agenda and resources for class are located in Class Pages. If your student is absent, they should check out the agenda for the day first and then come see me with any questions.
- Ms. Cullen can be reached at mcullen@bsdvt.org

Mathematics:

- 7th graders are studying proportionality.
- 8th graders are studying how to solve systems of linear equations.
- Parents and students should be checking PowerSchool daily.
- Help with math assignments is available after school Monday through Thursday in homework club. Going to HW club is a great student skill to develop before high school.
- All students are required to be writing down daily assignments in their assignment notebook at the end of class. It is helpful if you talk to your student about what they need to complete each day.
- Ms. Gagnon can be reached at agagnon@bsdvt.org





Team Solstice News

Visit our team blog for the most up-to-date news: teamsolstice.edublogs.org

Science

Solstice scientists have been hard at work. Most recently, they have conducted several experiments involving buoyancy and density, and they have modeled how the energy and arrangement of molecules explains what they have observed. Solstice scientists synthesized (say that five times fast!) all of this learning to construct an explanation for how convection works.

We arrived at a need to explain convection in the context of our unit on plate tectonics. Convection in the mantle is one of several driving forces of plate movement and recycling.

Solstice scientists spend the first few weeks of the new decade exploring further questions about Earth's geology, before moving on to learning about weather and climate.

Congratulations to Maren Lindstrom and Eliza Spinner who were the recipients of quarter 1 science awards!

Mr. Caswell

ncaswell@bsdvt.org

Math

- Our seventh graders are just beginning an investigation of proportional relationships. We will start with a look at ratios and rates, then apply this to graphs, tables, and equations. Then we will use proportions to find similarity, tax, tip, and discount.





- Our eighth graders have done a lot of work with linear relationships, such as calculating slope and intercepts, writing equations in different forms (slope-intercept, standard, and point-slope), and applying that knowledge to word problems. We have just started solving systems of equations using graphing, substitution, and combination/elimination.
- Eighth graders that have elected to take the optional Algebra Seminar will begin that work at the start of the second semester. For now, they should be working on their review packets which will be collected prior to the start of class; *if they have not completed this work, they will not be eligible to take the class.*

Language Arts

- Students worked hard creating a Year in Rap. It was an awesome collaboration with students from Phoenix and Oasis.
- January will have students continuing to read *Brown Girl Dreaming*, where we will study the author's voice and use of figurative language. The story, written in prose, follows Jacqueline Woodson's journey growing up as a young person of color in the south and the obstacles she overcomes. Students will be reading this both out loud and in small groups chosen based on the theme they want to study.
- We will continue to write our own poetry and practice writing using voice to tell a story.
- Are you getting the Friday updates in your email? If not, please let Ms. Sawtell know and she can make sure you are on the list: csawtell@bsdvt.org

Social Studies

As our study of the geography of Asia and Africa winds down, students have been working on the following projects:

- a "Fake Fodor's Guide" to countries on either of these continents. These travel guides focus on the following topics:
 - the symbolism inherent in the country's flag,
 - the country's physical characteristics,
 - Its demographics,





- a visitor's guide, and
- Impressions from Google maps and Youtube,
- Notes and discussion centering on the *Geography Now* Youtube series,
- A persuasive piece about reasons to visit Indonesia, and
- Study of the physical and political features of the Asian continent.

Congratulations to Erica Niyimpaye and Corey Fennimore who were the recipients of the Quarter 1 Social Studies awards!

For further information about what is happening in Social Studies, visit the website [here](#).





Mathcounts

Mathcounts team meets every Tuesday morning at 7:10 in Ms. Hunt's room, D11 . Mathcounts is for any HMS student who has an interest in taking a deeper dive into math topics such as number theory, probability, geometry/algebra/arithmetic connections, games and many other interesting aspects of math that build on the classroom subjects. We also are preparing for the Mathcounts competition that will take place on February 8 at UVM. So, for all those who have interest....stop by some Tuesday morning and wake up with math--and maybe a donut as well!

