

MCA PREP AREA is
on the website under
current families!

Save the Date:

March 10-14 DDI Assessments
March 11 Board Meeting, 7:00 PM
March 17 Spring Break (March 17 to April 4)
March 27 Lunch orders Due! (Keep a copy for your records)
April 9 Report cards available in SchoolView
April 12 Applebee's Fundraiser Breakfast!

Donations Needed:

Copy Paper - Both white and colored! (still wrapped in paper please)



From the Director

Dear Paideia Community,

Once again, I have been inspired by our 4th grade Poetry Slam to write a poem of my own to close out the third quarter. This year, I have chosen to write a Haiku that sums up our year so far.

***Excitement and joy
Learning to grow together
Poised for the future***

As spring finally approaches, I ask us all to take a few moments to appreciate our own blossoming. Our students have come so far from where they were at the beginning of the year! They have grown physically and emotionally, they have gathered new experiences and gained new knowledge and skills, and they have learned more about who they are, who they want to be, and how they will get there.

Our staff has grown together as a professional learning community, thought more specifically about their own educational philosophies and how they implement them in their work with their students and colleagues, and learned with and from each other. They have focused on strategies to understand and meet the needs of our diverse students while also building on their strengths and interests, and they have worked together to develop plans to continuously challenge students at all levels.

We have so much to celebrate from this year, while we realize how much more we still want to do! Our charter has been renewed, Paideia was designated a High-Quality Charter School by MDE, we are nearly filled to capacity for 2014-2015, and we have established a strong foundation on which to continue our growth. At Tuesday's Board meeting, we revised the Paideia mission to better reflect who we are ten years after our founding by families invested in their children's futures. While the main ideas are still intact, we believed it was important to amend it slightly so it truly guides our work for the future. Our revised mission statement reads:

To challenge and inspire learners by engaging each student in a rigorous, content-rich education incorporating classical studies, languages, music, and the arts while nurturing positive character development.

We wanted to make sure that our mission statement reflects our focus on individual learners, supports high expectations for everyone, recognizes the value of content as the anchor for learning, ensures that we provide our students with well-rounded academic programs, and includes character development as an overarching theme.

When your children come back from spring break, they will be entering the final phase of the school year. Our 8th graders will be preparing for high school and moving on from Paideia, our 3rd – 8th graders will participate in MCA testing, and all of our students will be looking forward to (and, sometimes, a little nervous about) what is yet to come. The last quarter of the year tends to fly by, so I encourage you all to reflect on your year and your children while you think about your hopes for the future.

Have a wonderful three-week break with your families! We look forward to seeing you all again on April 7th.

Sincerely,
Marci Levy-Maguire
Director

From the Office

In Memoriam

On March 3, 2014, Kristine Foreman passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family. Kristine was an active member of the Paideia community, both as a parent and a substitute teacher. She will be missed. Our thoughts are with her children and family.

We need 7th grade family volunteers to plan the 8th grade graduation! Anyone interested can contact Mrs. Chamley at rhamley@paideiaacademy.org.

NJHS News

Congratulations to our new NJHS members. **We will hold our New Member Induction Ceremony in the Paideia Great Room at 6:30 pm on Monday, April 14.** Everyone is welcome to attend.

NJHS students were very busy during third quarter. They sponsored a very successful blood drive, collected clothing donations, and helped plan Family Night. They are also planning individual service projects.

PENNY WARS

Last week our NJHS group coordinated Penny Wars for the Pennies for Patients program for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. This event was a huge success and we wish to thank everyone in our Paideia community for your generosity. All the students were very excited and involved. **Our school raised \$1156.77.** Mrs. Crystal Daugherty's fourth grade class won the Penny Wars with more than 5741 pennies (and they came in second with their amount raised)! They will be rewarded with a pizza party from Domino's sometime next quarter. Mrs. Lisa Kitts' raised the most of any class for LLS with \$156.15. They have won an extra recess once it gets warm.



Question: Where can I find my child's report card, and when?

Answer: Report cards for 3rd Quarter will be available after noon on April 9th on SchoolView. There is a link on our homepage Under the Quick Links section. (Our school district number is 4141.) Choose your student, then click on Report Cards. Please email Tonya if you need any assistance! TLundstrom@PaideiaAcademy.org



The Marketing Committee will be at the Apple Valley Home and Garden show on Saturday, April 5th from 9-3. Please stop by our booth to say "hi"! We have bumper sticker clings to share with current families who stop by!

The MCAs are quickly approaching in April, and we want to do everything we can to support students in getting ready for them! In the coming weeks, please look for more information about what to expect during the week of April 21st. Additional information can be found at: <http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/JustParent/TestReq/>

How can students prepare for the tests?

The "Test Preparation Suggestions for Parents and Teachers" handout is available on the MDE website with tips on content preparation, general test-taking strategies and using a calculator. [View the Test Preparation handout on the MDE website.](#) (Go to Just for Parents > Testing Information.)

Item samplers help students become familiar with the format of the test and provide examples of the types of questions that are on the test. You can find item samplers for each grade and subject on the Minnesota Assessments portal (www.mnstateassessments.org). [View the item samplers on the Minnesota Assessments portal.](#)

Attention, families of students in Grades 3-8!

MCA testing is coming up the week of April 21st. In an effort to keep our students academically engaged over break, we are sending home practice packets for Math and Reading. We are hoping to get at least 75% of the packets back after spring break. If at least 75% of students in each grade level turn in their completed packets to their Advisory teachers by Friday, April 11th, that grade level will be rewarded with a movie day on the Friday after MCA testing (April 25th). Please encourage your student to do his/her part by working on the packet a little bit each day, and remember that IXL is always available online, too. (email mekrem@paideiaacademy.org for an IXL password reminder) We are excited to see how well our students

Minnesota's Fourth Annual Purple Up! – April 15, 2014

Wear purple on April 15. April is the Month of the Military Child and Purple Up! is a way that schools and communities can show support during April. Take a photograph in purple and have it posted on the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Facebook page. Please [send photos to Laura Groeneweg](#).

Purple Up! at the Rotunda. Families of the deployed, family readiness groups, Yellow Ribbon networks, all branches of service, and Minnesota's military family supporters are invited to the State Capitol Rotunda to be part of a "Purple Up" photograph opportunity to support families of those deployed.

When: Tuesday, April 15, 9 a.m.

Where: Capitol Rotunda, St. Paul

Why: Nationwide, more than two million kids have a parent or parents serving in either an active duty or reserve role for the U.S. Armed Forces. In Minnesota, 20,000 men and women are currently serving. Their children bravely face the uncertainty of their parent's safety when they are away, as well as the difficult reintegration when they return. It is important for these military-connected youth to know that their nation and community stand by them in support.

The fourth annual Purple Up! is a fun way to show our support and is an opportunity to call attention to these special challenges faced by military kids. Put on your purple and come out to support these kids.



RSVP by April 1 [to Laura Groeneweg](#) (laura.l.groeneweg.ctr@mail.mil), lead child and youth program coordinator. [Find out more about military youth recognition opportunities on the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon website](#)

Check your students backpack today!

Celebrating the Veteran in My Life – Student Poetry Contest

April is both Month of the Military Child and National Poetry Month. In recognition of these occasions, Senator Al Franken is hosting the 3rd Annual Children's Military Poetry Contest. In recognition of the extraordinary work of Minnesota men and women who serve our country, this year's theme is "Celebrating the Veteran in My Life."

If you have any questions or need additional information, please email poetry@franken.senate.gov or call 651-221-1016.



Charter Day At The Capitol 2014

Director: Marci Levy-Maguire,
Dean of students: Rachel Chamley
and Senator Clausen

**It is time to begin thinking about
the Lightbulb Fair!**

*keep an eye out for more information
about this awesome event!*



PTO News

March 14, 2014

Our students enjoyed their out of uniform day yesterday as their reward for collecting over 15000 items of Box tops, milk caps, Campbell's soup labels, etc. Thanks to all our parents for turning in all these items, you have helped to raise over \$1100 for Paideia.

Carnival Donations

Our Carnival Committees are fast at work! As we continue to plan for one of our biggest fundraisers, we would like to ask for your support. The Silent Auction committee is currently looking for big-ticket items for the auction. Some examples are: an iPod Touch, a Kindle Fire, a Nintendo DSi, and a child's size bike. If you, or someone you know, owns or works for a business that would be interested in donating, please contact Jane Hendrickson at jane.hendrickson@live.com. It is a wonderful way to help support our Paideia Community.

Keep in mind, the Carnival is fun for all ages, with games, silent action, food and more! Invite your family and friends!



PTO Nominations:

Vice President

2 year term

See PTO website for details

Volunteer Needed:

School Store Lead

**PANCAKE
BREAKFAST!
SATURDAY,
APRIL 12**

**Turn in
order forms
TODAY!**

Counselor's Corner

A Message from your Counselors: Take a Stand on Video Games

Don't expect your child to set his or her own limits on the amount of time spent with this captivating form of entertainment. You are responsible for your child's well-being and must set appropriate limits. If the rules are broken, deny your child access to the game for a day or more. Insist that homework and chores be completed before your child can play video games. Game time can even be used as an incentive for finishing these tasks properly.

Helpful Hints: To assist in taking that stand on video games!

- **Limit video game time.** Allow an hour of play on school nights and two or three hours a day on week-ends. Some parents allow the video games only on weekends. If your child is doing poorly in school, temporarily eliminate video game time on school nights. Some parents allow their children to earn video game time by putting in equivalent reading time.
- **Don't allow your child to postpone bedtime because he wants to finish a video game.** Remember that children who stay up late are usually too tired the next day to remember what they are taught in school. Don't allow your child to have a video game set in his bedroom, because this eliminates your control over time spent playing.
- **Encourage your children to settle their own disputes over using the video game.** Try to stay out of disagreements, as long as they remain verbal. Children can't go through life having a referee to resolve their differences. If the dispute becomes too loud, remove the game until your children work out a solution.
- **Help your child choose video games that are not excessively violent.** Encourage your child to buy or rent sports, puzzle, maze, or adventure games. Avoid games that contain lots of murder, combat and destruction. Research suggests that video games encourage more aggressive behavior than violent TV shows because your child is an active participant in the destruction and not just an observer.
- **Try to channel your child's leisure time into a variety of activities.** Video games are not bad for children. They can teach certain skills and they are more educational than watching TV. So teach your child to play them in moderation after the first weeks of normal infatuation pass. Encourage reading, music, hobbies, sports and playing with friends as well.

New and Noteworthy:

- April is Alcohol and Drug Awareness Month
- April is Child Abuse Prevention Month
- April is Counseling Awareness Month
- April is National Autism Awareness Month
- April 2 is International Children's Book Day
- April 6-12 is Week of the Young Child
- April 6-13 is National Volunteer Week

This Week in Technology

Kindergarten: Mrs. Johnson's class typed their names and changed fonts and sizes of text. Ms. Steven's class used IXL for Math or Starfall for reading when they were in the lab.

1st Grade: Alphabet Books were published and are now part of the classroom libraries. They also went to IXL to work on math skills.

2nd Grade: Students practiced IXL math skills in the lab and took an assessment on internet safety.

3rd Grade: Used the internet to research credible websites for the President PowerPoint project they are creating.

4th Grade: Completed all their final drafts for the Poetry Slam and Mrs. Matschiner's Class worked with Excel to create a Pie Graph and a Column Graph.

5th Grade: Students were introduced to Publisher during health class to create a brochure about the dangers of illegal drugs.

6th-8th Grade: Students took a keyboarding test....BUT..... 10 minutes a day on the website:

www.freetypinggame.net doing some keyboarding over break would increase their words per minute scores! WPM Goal for 5th and 6th graders is 30 and for 7th and 8th graders is 40. If you meet or exceed your goal, print your score or have a parent or guardian email it to mekrem@paideiaacademy.org and see us in room 202 for a prize!

Cont.

Keeping Sharp Over Break

- Our Paideia Academy student page (lower right hand corner) has been updated with many resources for students over break. Click [here](#) to go there now!
- ◇ Internet safety (tell us what you learned for a **prize**!
- ◇ Typing practice (beat your WPM goal and earn a **prize**! 3rd grade = 10wpm, 4th grade = 20 wpm, 5th and 6th = 30 wpm, 7th and 8th = 40 wpm) Put your name on the WPM bulletin board when you return from break!
- ◇ Websites hand-picked for each grade level!
- Check out some of this student work here: <http://www.paideiaacademy.org/page.php?ID=2488> If your work is featured on these pages, please come claim your **prize** in room 202!

From the classrooms

Visual Art

Announcements:

The deadline for the Triarco competition is fast approaching. Please hand in finished work to Mrs. Shelton or Mrs. Cooper by **March 14th– this Friday!**

Ideas for break!

Upper:

1. Check out the Minneapolis Institute of Art (MIA) or the Walker Sculpture Garden– both are FREE!
2. Go to the public library and look for books on animals and totem poles.
3. Look online together for new art/artists– have your students write #hashtags for what they see.

Lower:

1. Head to the Minneapolis Institute of Arts! Admission is FREE and your child can look at art from around the world. Encourage your student to bring a sketchbook and sketch their favorite work.
2. Have fun at the Walker Sculpture Garden. Admission is also FREE and your child can enjoy viewing the sculptures with the warmer weather!
3. Have fun and keep creating!

Both:

You can also check-out these websites of famous art museums. Parents please preview the websites and choose age appropriate work to view as these are general art museums and not created just for children:

The Louvre in Paris: www.pinterest.com/museedulouvre

The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City: www.pinterest.com/metmuseum

The International Spy Museum in Washington, D.C.: www.pinterest.com/intlspymuseum

Lower Academy Spanish

Spanish: Kindergarten-Fourth Grade

Students can practice their Spanish over break by doing the following:

1. Visit the Paideia Spanish Classroom Page for links to a variety of free online resources for Spanish.
2. Review the words from the homework packet. They can make flashcards for the words (there is a glossary in the back of their packets) and play games such a memory or go-fish with the flashcards.
3. Students may go to quia.com/web for activities such as a Battleship and Rags to Riches. Usernames and passwords are located in their homework packets.
4. Watch a movie in Spanish. On the menu page, select languages to see if the movie has an option for Spanish audio or subtitles.

Upper Academy Spanish

Spanish: 7A & 8A

Students can practice their Spanish over break by doing the following:

1. Visit the Paideia Spanish Classroom Page for links to a variety of free online resources for Spanish.
2. Practice their flashcards from this year.
3. Students may go to quia.com/web for activities such as a Battleship and Rags to Riches.
4. Watch a movie in Spanish. On the menu page, select languages to see if the movie has an option for Spanish audio or subtitles.
5. Practice Spanish directly from our textbook online at classzone.com. Select the textbook 'Avancemos 1' to find online flashcards, self-check quizzes, animated grammar and more. There is also a link on the page to ¡Conjuguemos! for verb practice.

Music

Volunteer Opportunities: Still calling all 3rd and 4th grade parents to help with the upcoming 3-4 Music Concert! E-mail Mrs. Rosholt or Mr. Strand if interested: hrosholt@paideiaacademy.org; tstrand@paideiaacademy.org

Kindergarten

Over break kindergarteners can practice exploring high and low sounds in the voice (vocal exploration), singing short songs, and singing in a "head" voice rather than chest or speaking voice!

1st Grade

Over break 1st graders can practice singing in their head voice (rather than chest voice), and finding the steady beat to songs on the radio!

2nd Grade

Over break 2nd graders can practice singing in their head voice (rather than chest voice), and finding the steady beat to songs on the radio!

3rd Grade

Over break please have 3rd graders practice their songs. All lyrics and sound files can be found on the Upper Academy Music 3/4 grade page link. If your son or daughter got a part and needs to come in to rehearse over spring break, you will receive an e-mail today (Friday) with details!

4th Grade

Over Spring Break, students in 4th grade have opportunities to study the lyrics and melodies of the songs for our spring musical, *The Principal and the Pea*! Check the Music 3/4 page on the Upper Academy Specialists section of our Classroom Pages on paideiaacademy.org.

5th Grade

Over Spring Break, students in 5th grade have opportunities to practice the skills we learned in 3rd quarter on the Music 5 classroom page on paideiaacademy.org.

6th Grade

Over Spring Break, students in 6th grade have opportunities to practice the skills we learned in 3rd quarter on the guitar. Resources are available on the Music 6 classroom page on paideiaacademy.org.

7th & 8th Grade

Students in 7th & 8th grade have opportunities to practice the skills we have learned in 3rd quarter on various free music notation programs such as MuseScore, NoteFlight, and iWriteMusic.

Band & Orchestra

Students in band & orchestra should be practicing their pieces for our spring concert—there is still a lot of work to do despite the accomplishments we've made so far!

Kindergarten

Math: Look for ideas on the Spring Break Bingo Board and log-in to IXL.

Language Arts: Review sight words, log-in to Lexia or look for other ideas on the Spring Break Bingo Board.

Social Studies: Go to <http://www.ustream.tv/decoraheagles> to watch the Decorah Eagle Cam.

Advisory: Practice greeting people you know by looking at them and saying their name!

Announcements: In May, the kindergartners will be going on a field trip! Look for more information regarding this in upcoming newsletters. (Parents, please keep this a surprise for your students)

Volunteer Opportunities: Thank you to all of the volunteers that have come in or worked at home this quarter. We really appreciate all the help you have given us! Special thanks to Shannon Bradley for coordinating all of our volunteers!

Inspirations: Happy Birthday Anna (3/21)! We have been so impressed with how well the kindergartner's have done with reading this quarter! WAY TO GO!!!!

First Grade

Math: During spring break it would be great to practice basic subtraction and addition facts with your first grader. The homework will have adding and subtracting two digit numbers without regrouping. The homework will also have word problems. You can work on IXL: C. 6-10, E. 6-10

Language Arts: Read, read, read! Let your first grader practice reading aloud to you and also listen to you read to him/her. You can also work on the Dolch Word Lists we passed out at conferences. Help your child complete the writing activities in the homework packet. Students can also work on Lexia and starfall.com

Science: We finished our unit on the earth's layers and the different types of rocks. You can ask your child what they learned about rocks.

Social Studies: We have finished our unit on presidents and voting. You can ask your child who the current president is and hold a mock election in your house.

Advisory: We have read two great books about how to be a great friend. Ask your child to share what he/she wrote in their "How to keep all your friends" mini book.

Announcements: Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers! The last couple of weeks have been very busy and your help is very much appreciated.

Volunteer Opportunities: Please go to <http://vols.pt/dL1y1z> to sign up for volunteer opportunities for reading and math. Please let us know if you are having troubles signing up online.

Inspirations: Britton, Cole, Zachary, and Ella retired clips this week! Way to go!

Second Grade

Spring Break Ideas:

Math: Practice counting money at the store and telling time throughout the day; continue practicing addition and subtraction with regrouping and rounding numbers

—IXL math skills: G1—G5, H1—H5, M2, M5, M10, N3, P1, P3, Q.2—Q5 and Q7

Language Arts: Read together as a family, have children read to younger siblings or pets, ask children to tell or write about what they are reading, write a journal or story about what they are doing over break, and work on Lexia and IXL Language Arts.

Science: Discuss healthy eating and involve your child in helping you plan a meal with all the food groups.

Social Studies: Talk about making choices and how there is an opportunity cost when you make a choice (for example, if you are at the store and they can choose one thing to buy, the 2nd choice that they couldn't get is the opportunity cost). Also, find things in your house that are capital or natural resources.

Announcements: We would appreciate that you wash all of your child's snow clothes and water bottles over spring break! Both classes are also continuing to be in need of more items for the treasure box so it would be great if some families could bring contribute some items when they come back from break!

Volunteer Opportunities: We will have sign-up times for volunteering in the classroom during quarter 4 posted on Volunteer Spot soon. If you have more questions, email Wendy, our 2nd grade parent rep, at devriesw@yahoo.com.

Inspirations: We had fun on our field trip to see *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good Very Bad Day* at Stages Theatre! Ask your child about it!

Third Grade

Here are some ideas of IXL topics to practice over break!

Math:

IXL: Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, Division, Area & Perimeter, and Fractions

Language Arts: IXL: Sentence types, Commas, Irregular Past Tense, Sentences, Fragments and Run-Ons, Verbs, Quotations, Nouns and Pronouns, Adjectives, Prefixes and Suffixes, Similes and Metaphors

Science: Read any books that have to do with the Solar System.

Social Studies: Read any books that have to do with the Vikings, Early Explorers, or the 13 Colonies.

Announcements: MCA testing is coming up the week of April 21st. In an effort to keep our students academically engaged over break, we are sending home practice packets for Math and Reading. We are hoping to get at least 75% of the packets back after spring break. If at least 75% of our students turn in their completed packets by Friday, April 11th, 3rd grade will be rewarded with a movie day on the Friday after MCA testing (April 25th). Please encourage your student to do his/her part by working on the packet a little bit each day, and remember that IXL is always available online too.

Volunteer Opportunities: We always have volunteer opportunities in 3rd grade. Please contact your child's homeroom teacher if you are available to help fourth quarter.

Inspirations: The third graders worked very hard during 3rd quarter and have come such a long way since 1st quarter! We are very proud of them and are looking forward to seeing how well they do on the MCAs!! Have a wonderful Spring Break!

Fourth Grade

Over break: Help your students prepare for the MCA's by completing the Spring Break Math and Reading Packets! Students can also practice Language Arts and Math skills online at IXL.

5th Grade

Math: it has been a wonderful Third Quarter in 5th Grade Math class. The students learned many new concepts in Algebra and Geometry, and strengthened their number sense! Next quarter we will work with graphs and tables, ratios and percents, angles, and properties of 4-sided figures. **Your student should have brought home a yellow Spring Break Math Packet to complete over the long break. This will help our math brains stay focused and sharp, and help us start 4th Quarter ready and strong! Turning in a completed packet could earn a reward for the ENTIRE grade!** If you lose your packet, you can find them on Paideia Web Site! Please continue to use the website IXL for additional practice, especially in the areas of fraction addition and subtraction, and multi-digit division!!! Our students could also use a little extra practice converting between decimals, fractions, and percents.

Language Arts: Students wrapped up their work for the quarter on improving their reading, writing, and vocabulary. We watched the movie "The Secret Garden," the content of which is part of the Core Knowledge Sequence. Students had the opportunity to check out a copy of "The Secret Garden" over spring break. Students received a reading practice packet to complete over break. Students should also be logging minutes on their reading calendars, due April 7th. A copy of the March reading calendar and additional resources for practicing language arts skills can be found on the Language Arts classroom page.

Social Studies: Next quarter students will learn about the Articles of Confederation, Constitutional Convention, the Constitution and Bill of Rights, and our system of government. We may also read a historical fiction text about Philadelphia just after the founding of our country. Over break students are encouraged to visit their local library to look at books about topics we will study during fourth quarter.

Science: Next quarter students will be reviewing concepts learned in the past to get ready for their MCA tests. The students will also be learning about the metric system. We will then move into some of our core knowledge science topics such as; animal and plant cells, parts of a plant, parts of a flower and photosynthesis.

Advisory: Students continue to use Advisory time to work on character education, organizational/study skills, and Olweus Anti-Bullying. This week in Advisory students went over current grades/missing work for mid-term.

Cont.

Announcements: The 5th grade overnight field trip to the State Capitol & Science Museum in St. Paul has been rescheduled for May 8th-9th. More information to come. Students completed DDI tests the last week of the quarter.

Volunteer Opportunities: Mr. Leckband has volunteer opportunities available over spring break.

Inspirations: It was inspiring to see the 5th graders learn so much at the Mill City Museum and then excitedly recount that knowledge to each other following the field trip.

6th Grade

Math: It has been a wonderful Third Quarter in 6th Grade Math class. The students learned many new concepts in Geometry, Probability, and strengthened their number sense. Next quarter we dive into Algebra. **Your student should have brought home a Spring Break Math Packet to complete over the long break. This will help our math brains stay focused and sharp, and help us start 4th Quarter ready and strong! Turning in a completed packet could earn a reward for the ENTIRE grade!** If you lose your packet, you can find a copy on the Paideia Web Site! Please continue to use the website IXL for additional practice, especially in the areas of Volume and Surface Area, and Patterns and Functions. Our students could also use a little extra practice calculating Experimental and Theoretical Probabilities.

Language Arts: Students wrapped up their discussion of their literature circle novels, and some volunteered to share information they learned researching the authors of their novel. Students received a reading practice packet to complete over break. Students should also be logging minutes on their reading calendars, **due April 7th**. A copy of the March reading calendar and additional resources for practicing language arts skills can be found on the Language Arts classroom page.

Social Studies: Next quarter students will learn about Industrialization and Immigration, the Progressive Era in Minnesota, Minnesota's contributions to World War I and II, and Minnesota's governmental structure. It would be great if you had time over break to use your pass to Minnesota Historical Society sites. Some sites you might consider are the State Capital, Minnesota History Center, North West Company Fur Post, Traverse des Sioux Treaty site, Lower Sioux Agency, James J. Hill House, Alexander Ramsey House, and Jeffers Petroglyphs. These are all fairly close and would make a good day trip.

Science: Next quarter students will be learning about potential and kinetic energy. We will then be moving onto some of our core knowledge science topics such as; plate tectonics, oceans, and astronomy.

Advisory: Students continue to use Advisory time to work on character education, organizational/study skills, and Olweus Anti-Bullying. This week in Advisory students went over current grades/missing work for midterm.

Announcements: Students completed DDI tests the last week of the quarter.

Volunteer Opportunities: Mr. Leckband has volunteer opportunities available over spring break.

Inspirations: It was inspiring to see the 6th graders working very hard doing research and creating PowerPoints about the authors of their literature circle novels. 6th graders did a great job with the novel we read, *Soldier's Heart*. They enjoyed listening to the story, learned about the Civil War and engaged in some interesting conversations.

7th Grade

Math: Over spring break all students can work on their math in a few different ways. I encourage every student to practice IXL daily for 15-30 minutes, or a certain number of skills. The students can complete ANY skill under state standards at this point in the year. On Wednesday (3/12), I sent home an MCA practice packet for math (approximately 40-50 questions). If 75% of the grade-level returns their packets completed, there will be a movie day on the Friday after MCA testing. Students can log-in to the online textbook (log-in info. on my Paideia website) and review lessons taught from this year.

Language Arts: All 7th grade students will be receiving MCA reading practice packets. Students are asked to complete these reading packets during spring break. A movie day will be given to students if most of the grade completes it! The MCA reading packet is due April 11, 2014. I hope everyone has a safe and wonderful spring break!

Social Studies: This week in Social Studies students had reading time in class to work on finishing their war choice novels/memoirs; students have been very engaged in their reading and have really enjoyed the books and looked forward to having time to read! Many students even read more than one book! We worked through a short PowerPoint slideshow about The American Civil War and took notes to help introduce the topic. After break we will spend a few weeks finishing up with our study of Wars in U.S. History using primary and secondary sources, videos, Quia study games, websites, and other resources. Then for the remainder of the school year we will focus on “Peace” (i.e. peace time) throughout U.S. History, learning about U.S. history and culture by studying music, literature, social movements, and systems of government and economics, among other topics. Each 7th grade student has his/her own folder of resources in Discovery Education online that they can study over Spring Break; there are also Quia study activities and Khan Academy social studies videos they can watch. Our *Upfront* classroom magazine has a supplementary website they could visit and students are always welcome to check out books from Ms. Hood’s classroom to read over break!

Science: Over break students can keep their brains in gear by doing any of the following:

- Work on MCA prep work that has been sent home
- Begin planning a project/presentation for the Light Bulb Fair
- Visit my classroom page and look over the science resource document that I’ve uploaded – it contains several cool science websites that can clarify things that students may be confused about or can help students explore something new!
- Read science books, articles, websites etc – print out and complete the “science article summary” sheet from the classroom page and bring it back for extra credit!
- Going to the science museum or a science fair? Write a summary about what you saw, how it related to your science class, and what you learned. Bring it back for extra credit!
- Curious about something? Use the experiment template from the classroom page to develop a testable question and experiment to find some answers (with parent permission :)

Advisory: 7th graders are discussing character traits such as hope and self-control, and working on getting organized and caught up for midterm, and continuing with Olweus Anti-Bullying topics.

Announcements: Students completed non-graded DDI tests the last week of the quarter. Please look for a math practice packet to work on over Spring Break—this will come home with your student next Thursday. There is an overnight field trip scheduled for May 9th-10th to the SeaLife aquarium at the Mall of America. More info to come.

Volunteer Opportunities: Ms. Hood and Mrs. Kempf would appreciate help making copies and tidying up their classrooms! Please contact them for details! Thanks so much to Mrs. Dobberman for updating our bulletin boards! Thank you!!

Inspirations: Ms. Hood was inspired by the glowing reports from her substitute teacher this past week, as well as how many 7th graders were so engaged with their novels and memoirs in Social Studies! Many students chose to read more than one book about wars in U.S. history even though only one book was required!

8th Grade

Math: Over spring break all students can work on their math in a few different ways. I encourage every student to practice IXL daily for 15-30 minutes, or a certain number of skills. The students can complete ANY skill under state standards at this point in the year. On Wednesday (3/12), I sent home an MCA practice packet for math (approximately 40-50 questions). If 75% of the grade-level returns their packets completed, there will be a movie day on the Friday after MCA testing. Students can log-in to the online textbook (log-in info. on my Paideia website) and review lessons taught from this year.

Language Arts: All 8th grade students will be receiving MCA reading practice packets. Students are asked to complete these reading packets during spring break. A movie day will be given to students if most of the grade completes it! The MCA reading packet is due April 11, 2014. I hope everyone has a safe and wonderful spring break!

Cont.

Social Studies: This week in Social Studies we focused on learning introductory information about the foundations of U.S. government and economic systems. We will continue learning more about these topics in -depth after Spring Break. During Fourth Quarter we will also continue our study of world regional geography, including units on Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia/Oceania. Next quarter we will read the novel *Animal Farm* as we study competing systems of government and economics during The Cold War, and students will have a few choices of novels for the last half of the quarter. Over Spring Break students can login to Discovery Education if they want to, or login to Quia and play the 8th grade Social Studies games and learning activities; our National Geographic textbook has really neat online resources students can login to, and our *Upfront* classroom magazines have a supplementary website students could use over break to keep up with current events!

Science: Over break students can keep their brains in gear by doing any of the following:

- Work on MCA prep work that has been sent home
- Begin planning a project/presentation for the Light Bulb Fair
- Visit my classroom page and look over the science resource document that I've uploaded – it contains several cool science websites that can clarify things that students may be confused about or can help students explore something new!
- Read science books, articles, websites etc – print out and complete the “science article summary” sheet from the classroom page and bring it back for extra credit!
- Going to the science museum or a science fair? Write a summary about what you saw, how it related to your science class, and what you learned. Bring it back for extra credit!
- Curious about something? Use the experiment template from the classroom page to develop a testable question and experiment to find some answers (with parent permission :))

Advisory: 8th graders are discussing character traits such as hope and self-control, working on getting organized and caught up for midterm, and continuing with Olweus Anti-Bullying topics.

Announcements: Students completed non-graded DDI tests the last week of the quarter. Please look for a math practice packet to work on over Spring Break—this will come home with your student next Thursday. There is an overnight field trip scheduled for May 9th-10th to the SeaLife aquarium at the Mall of America. More info to come.

Volunteer Opportunities: Ms. Hood & Mrs. Kempf would appreciate help making copies and tidying up their classrooms! Please contact them for details. Thank you so much to Mrs. Dobberman for updating our bulletin boards! Thank you!!

Inspirations: Ms. Hood was inspired by 8th graders' interest in learning about systems of government and economics! It seems to be a favorite unit for 8th graders each year!

Our Vision

We envision a new generation of engaged, productive global citizens.

Our Mission

To challenge and inspire learners by
engaging each student in a rigorous, content-rich education
incorporating classical studies, languages, music, and the arts
while nurturing positive character development.