

Paideia Academy

DECEMBER 19, 2014

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Dec 22-Jan 9 Winter Break!

Jan 12 Monday Morning
Meeting 8:15 am, Coffee
with the Director 9:08 am

Jan 13 Academic Excellence
Committee Meeting 6 pm,
Operation's Committee
Meeting 7 pm.

Jan 15 2nd Semester Club
registrations due, Evening
Conferences & Book Fair!

Jan 16 Conferences - No
school, no newsletter &
Book Fair!

Jan 19 MLK DAY—No School

Jan 20 2nd Semester Clubs
start & Board Meeting 7 pm.

Jan 26 Title 1 Starts for 2nd
semester.



Dear Paideia Community,

Thank you to the 60 of you who completed the Fall Family Satisfaction Survey! While we will be analyzing the results more closely during winter break, I am proud to announce an 88% overall satisfaction rate with Paideia Academy among the respondents. 66% of the respondents rated their overall satisfaction as Very Satisfied or Extremely Satisfied. Our goal every day is to create a collaborative environment in which families and staff work together to support their children's current and future success. I truly appreciate the feedback you have provided to help us continue to grow.

It has been an exciting final week of the quarter, with students taking their DDI assessments, classroom celebrations being held to enjoy some time together before the 3-week winter break, and teachers preparing their classrooms to be painted before we come back in January. Our 8th graders' Explore test results have come in, and our 7/8 team is examining them to prepare to discuss them with students and their families in Advisory, during classes, and during conferences. These assessments provide excellent information to us to support students in planning for their futures based on their strengths, areas for growth, and interests.

During the break, I will continue to work on drafting plans for the 2015-2016 school year in preparation for discussing and gathering feedback on them with you, staff, and the Board. On 1/12/14, the day we return from break, we will be having both a Monday Morning Meeting and a Coffee with the Director. I hope you will join us there to kick off our second semester!

Enjoy a wonderful break with your families! I look forward to seeing you in 2015!

Sincerely,
Marci Levy-Maguire
Director



**ENJOY
WINTER
BREAK!**



From the Board

I want to first thank the entire Paideia Academy community for all of their hard work during the first half of the year! We have had some wonderful things to celebrate and will continue to work hard during the second half of the year on achieving student goals, assessing staff and family satisfaction, and continually making Paideia the choice K-8 school south of the river.

This past Tuesday, the Finance Committee met and discussed finance-related questions for the staff satisfaction survey, substitute pay, the school's current financial status and preparing a revised working budget for the remainder of the year. The Board meeting followed the Finance Committee meeting and approved the 2015-16 school calendar, an increase in substitute pay, and a new document retention policy. The Board also received reports from Ms. Levy-Maguire, the various Board committees, and the PTO.

No meetings will take place over winter break, but will resume in January, starting with the Building Ad Hoc Committee. The next Ad Hoc Committee meeting is **Monday, January 12 at 6:30 p.m.** and we will meet at the **Caribou Coffee** up the street from the school. If you have some time to volunteer and help plan for the future of our school, please join us. The next day on **Tuesday, January 13**, the Academic Excellence Committee will meet at 6 p.m. followed by the Operations Committee at 7 p.m.

Finally, I want to invite all of you to consider joining our school Board or nominating someone from the community who you think would be a valuable contributor to serve on the Board. We currently have openings that we would like to fill, which would allow the Board to accomplish more to best serve Paideia. Serving on the Board is a great way to give back to the Paideia community, have your voice heard and have an active hand in making Paideia successful. If you have any interest, know of an appropriate candidate, or would like more information about what it's like to serve on the Board, please contact me at elarsen@paideiaacademy.org. I would be happy to discuss my experience with you and answer any questions you may have. I hope to hear from you soon!

Enjoy winter break and we'll see you in January!

Elizabeth Larsen,
Board Chair

From the Office

It's Open Enrollment time!

If you have an incoming kindergartener or new-to-Paideia 1st-8th grader that you wish to enroll for the 2015-16 school year, please turn in your New Student Application. Current Paideia Students do not need applications filled out, as they will automatically be enrolled at Paideia for 2015-16. Current student siblings have priority for enrollment. Please be sure to turn in your application by February 27th to be included in the lottery. Applications are available in the office and online <http://www.paideiaacademy.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Paideia-Academy-Application-2015-2016.pdf>.

Volunteer Opportunities

1st Grade Level Volunteer Opportunities: Please go to Volunteer Spot to sign up for volunteer opportunities during Daily 5 and Math centers. We are also looking for prep help a couple times a week.

2nd Grade Level Volunteer Opportunities: We would continue to appreciate volunteers on Wednesday afternoons from 12:50-2:30 to make copies, file papers, etc., Thursday afternoons from 2:15-3:00 to give spelling tests, and Friday mornings from 8:25-9:20 to help students with new spelling word sorts. Please click on the following link to see what times are still open for this quarter and to sign up: <http://www.volunteerspot.com/login/entry/57934526016>

* *

We are in need of volunteers who can lift 20+ pounds to help move furniture around the classrooms to prepare the rooms for painting. Students are welcome to help as long as they are accompanied by an adult. Please email kklayum@paideiaacademy.org to sign up for a time.

From the PTO

As 2014 winds down, we would like to express our sincerest gratitude to all Paideia families for your support of the PTO and our fundraising efforts so far this school year! Together, we can make great things happen for our children! Have a safe and fun winter break and see you in January!

Tuesday, January 6, Wendy's Night 5-7pm Join other Paideia families for dinner! We receive 10% of ALL SALES from 5-7pm.

January 15-16 is the Usborne Book Fair

It may be almost winter, but Paideia Academy will be BRIGHT! It's a Neon Book Fair during conferences. Stop by Thursday from 3 to 8pm or Friday from 8am to 1pm in the Large Commons Area. Stock up for winter reading. Baby, it's cold outside!

10 Year Family Event on January 30th from 6 to 9pm!

It's been 10 years since the opening of Paideia Academy—join us on January 30th to celebrate! The party will take place at Sky Deck Sports Grille & lanes located on the 4th floor of the Mall of America. Families, staff and teachers can use the neon-lit bowling alley, play arcade games, enjoy a delicious buffet and drinks and play billiards. Look for your invitation in backpacks after winter break.

Box Tops 4 Education

This year, our goal is to raise \$1,000 to purchase items for classrooms for our school. **We currently have \$450. We need to collect \$550 more to meet our goal by February.** One of the easiest ways you can make a difference is to sign up on the **Box Tops website** at boxtops4education.com. It's easy, free and you'll learn about new ways to help our school earn the extra cash it needs. Thanks for choosing to make a difference for our school with Box Tops!



We're Always Collecting....

Box Tops for Education, Labels for Education, Milk Moola, Coke Caps, Little Caesar's codes, Kellogg's Family Rewards, and the like. Just send them into school with your student. Don't forget to ask grandparents and friends to save too!

Your Paideia Academy PTO

President: Jane Hendrickson
Vice-President: Marinda Schader
Treasurer: Miki Stone
Secretary: Amanda Hirning
Communication Coordinator: Danielle Haagenson
Volunteer Coordinator: Sarah Zambrano
Redemption Coordinator: Dave Erhardt
Website Designer: Michael Bahr
School Store: Stacy Thorpe

Your Grade Level Reps

Kindergarten: Stacy Thorpe
First: Shannon Bradley
Second: Cari Thunker
Third: Wendy Clark
Fourth: Antoinette Stookey
Fifth/Sixth: Krystal Sedwick
Seventh/Eighth: Michele Lundgreen

Interested in being part of the leadership team?

Opportunities available are vice treasurer, fundraising coordinator, and family events coordinator.

We'd love to hear from you!
pto@paideiaacademy.org

From your Counselors

Thank you!

As 2014 comes to a close, we want to thank you for the privilege of working with your children. We are especially grateful for your continued support of our school counseling program, and would like to wish all of you a happy and healthy holiday!

The holidays can be stressful; take care of yourself with these tips from the American Heart Association:

1. **Positive Self-Talk:** We all talk to ourselves; sometimes we talk out loud but usually we keep self-talk in our heads. Self-talk can be positive ("I can do this!" or "Things will work out") or negative ("I'll never get well." or "I'm so stupid!"). Negative self-talk increases stress. Positive self-talk helps you calm down and control stress. With practice, you can learn to turn negative thoughts into positive ones.
2. **Emergency Stress Stoppers:** There are many stressful situations—at home, at home, on the road, and in public places. We may feel stress because of too much work, poor communication, and everyday hassles like standing in line. You may need different emergency stress stoppers for different situations and sometimes it helps to combine them.
 - Count to 10 before you speak
 - Take three to five deep breaths
 - Walk away from the stressful situation & handle it later
 - Don't be afraid to say "I'm sorry," if you make a mistake
3. **Finding Pleasure:** When stress makes you feel bad, do something that makes you feel good. Doing things you enjoy is a natural way to fight off stress. Try to do at least one thing you enjoy every day for 15 minutes.
 - Take up a hobby, new or old
 - Read a favorite book, short story, magazine, or newspaper
 - Have coffee or a meal with friends
 - Exercise and/or listen to music

From the Classrooms

Kindergarten

Math: Practice counting to at least 31, practice writing numbers to at least 31, practice counting objects to at least 31. Look for patterns around your house. Please see the Winter Break Bingo Board that was sent home with your child for additional ideas of what to work on over break.

Language Arts: Practice sight words learned from quarters one and two. Practice letter sounds, look for beginning, middle and ending sounds in words, practice handwriting skills. We are sending home some of our sight word readers – let your student impress you by reading them! Please see the Winter Break Bingo Board that was sent home with your child for additional ideas of what to work on over break.

Science: Go outside and observe winter weather. What animals are not hibernating? Record the weather/temperature every day at a certain time. Please see the Winter Break Bingo Board that was sent home with your child for additional ideas of what to work on over break.

Social Studies: Continue to talk about traditions in your family. What are some New Year's traditions you have? Do you have Winter family traditions? Do you have birthday family traditions? Please see the Winter Break Bingo Board that was sent home with your child for additional ideas of what to work on over break.

Advisory: Talk about what it means to be a kindergartner. Can you make a list of some school rules? What does it mean to be a kind friend/good citizen? When is it important to inform an adult of a situation? When should you try to solve the problem on your own?

Announcements:

Please remember that starting in third quarter, we'd like to really focus on developing our independence in the morning. This means that the kindergartners should be carrying their own backpacks and outside gear into the building on their own. Parents may continue to walk their student into the building, but we ask that you stop and say goodbye by the bathrooms. This gives students an opportunity to really shine with their independence.

PLEASE take some time over break to LABEL all of your outdoor gear! We still have many items that are not labeled, which makes it difficult to find the correct owner.

Inspirations: Happy Birthday Faith D (12/26) and Tanishq (12/27)

1st Grade

Math: Practice using the terms more than and less than, adding and subtracting to 20, and determining left and right.

⇒ **Opportunities for learning at home:** Please work on IXL K.1-K.12 for extra practice at home. You can also continue to review basic addition and subtraction facts to 15.

Language Arts: Continue to have your child read over break and ask them to retell the story to you. For extra reading practice you can have your child complete the reading challenge.

⇒ **Opportunities for learning at home:** Please read with your child every day. Please work on Lexia for extra practice. Your child can also practice the Dolch Word Lists that were sent home at conferences.

Science: Ask your child about electricity, the parts of a circuit, static electricity and electricity safety.

Social Studies: Ask your child about winter holidays and the religion they go with.

Advisory: Continue to have your child show kindness by their words and actions.

Announcements: In homework folders this week you will find a regular homework packet that needs to be completed. You will also find an extra practice/enrichment packet that may be complete.

Inspirations: Annika, Anna, Jasmine, Aden, Joi, Zoe and Addison retired a clip this week! Way to go!

2nd Grade

Math: Practice basic addition and subtraction facts for speed and accuracy, play math card games (addition war, Salute, etc.), practice adding and subtracting 2- or 3-digit numbers with and without regrouping, practice rounding and estimating sums and differences by rounding, write holiday story problems that include addition and subtraction, and work on IXL skills related to rounding, adding, subtracting, and place value.

Language Arts: Read holiday books as a family and compare and contrast them with similar books, discuss the parts of a story (setting, characters, problem, solution, etc.) as well as any lessons/morals the story teaches, read or retell a story to a younger sibling or cousin, read a non-fiction book and point out any text features, write a story about your holiday plans, write your own version of a family story (such as Goldilocks and the Three Bears or The Gingerbread Man), or write an opinion paragraph about your favorite toy or game. Also continue to work on Lexia and the IXL Language Arts skills related to nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, capitalization, and letters. (Email your child's teacher if you need their log-in information for either Lexia or IXL.)

Science: Discuss types of simple machines and look for examples of simple machines in your house, create your own simple machine with household objects, and go to the library and check out books on simple machines or other science topics.

Social Studies: Name types of resources (natural, capital, or human), discuss who are consumers and producers when you are shopping, use money to buy goods or services, discuss choices and the trade offs and opportunity cost (thing you had to give up) of a decision, and read books about economics or other social studies topics.

Announcements:

--Please make sure that you email your child's choices for conferences if you haven't already. Conferences are January 15-16. We look forward to seeing you and your child then!

--Students will not have any required homework over break. However, we are sending a reading log home and would love for you to help your child keep track of their reading minutes. Any reading minutes recorded will go toward their Book It! minutes for December or January and also for the opportunity to go to the treasure box.

--We would appreciate more donations of items for the treasure box AA batteries, and discmans (portable CD players) for listen to reading.

Inspirations: We would like to congratulate Silas, Ani, Zack, Reagan, Kyla, Ella, Emilie, on retiring clips this past week! We would also like to thank parents who donated items or volunteered for our winter party! We hope everyone has a great winter break!

3rd Grade

Math:

⇒ **Opportunities for learning at home:** For students in Mrs. Aldrich's math class please have your students practice solving division problems. For students in Ms. Gasper's math class you may practice multiplication problems. Over break an enrichment opportunity for the students would be to solve addition, subtraction, multiplication and division word problems and draw the bar model for these problems.

Language Arts:

⇒ Opportunities for learning at home: When your student reads at home and they finish ask them to identify the nouns, verbs and adjectives they saw when reading. Over break an enrichment opportunity would be to identify the central message of a story after reading it. They also may practice writing a letter to someone and making sure they have correct capitalization and punctuation.

Science: Students can practice starting to learn the names of the bones in the human body as this will be our next unit in Science. They can also practice drawing food chains!

Social Studies: Students can practice writing about the rights they have and about specific times they use their rights.

Advisory: Please talk with your students at home about how they have showed open-mindedness throughout the month of December so far, and how they can continue to show open-mindedness over break.

Announcements: There is no homework over winter break! Please remember to sign-up for a conference time with your student's homeroom teacher.

Inspirations: The third graders finished second quarter very strong! We are so proud of all they have learned throughout the first two quarters of third grade!

4th Grade

Math: Have your student earn an allowance for completing chores. Then budget their money to buy something.

⇒ **Opportunities for learning at home:** Review IXL standards from quarters 1 and 2. Preview our upcoming geometry standards.

Language Arts: READ!!

⇒ **Opportunities for learning at home:** Review IXL standards from quarters 1 and 2.

Science: Go to the Bakken and/or Pavek to explore the museum more!

Social Studies: Next quarter we will study immigration to MN. Talk to your student about your family's history!

Announcements: Have a great break!

Inspirations: Congrats to the students who received 100% on ALL the states and capitals: Peyton, Shaela, Jaden L., Landon, Sarah, Sam, Kennedy, Avery, Russell and Jaidyn

**4th Grade did a GREAT
job sharing their
Biography Presentations!**



5th Grade

Math: The fifth graders did a great job recalling their prior knowledge of fractions and using it to begin to add, subtract, and compare fractions

⇒ **Opportunities for learning at home:** Winter break is a great time for students to review what they have learned during the first semester. IXL is a great place for students to review these skills and work on what we have learned. Mathplayground.com is another site that can help to review some of the topics we have covered this semester. The fraction and decimal section or the multiplication and division section would be most helpful to your fifth grader. Students can also log-on to our online textbook over break to review topics we have learned. To log-on to the online textbook, go to my.hrw.com and use the username fifthgrade1 and password s9s3e. On the online textbook, students can watch videos about what we have learned, do practice problems, and even look ahead to what is coming next.

Language Arts: Students completed their “Work on Words” and “Work on Writing” packets this week, and watched “The Secret Garden.” I have several versions of the novel I can check out if students are interested in reading the book after watching the movie. See below for other things students can work on over break.

⇒ **Opportunities for learning at home:** Students should do lots of reading at home over break! Consider some trips to the library for students to pick out books they enjoy. For reading comprehension practice, check out: www.readworks.org, and www.newsela.com.

Science: Throughout second quarter students in fifth grade have been studying cells and cells parts of plants and animals as well as studying parts of an ecosystem. As we enter into third quarter students will be beginning the quarter off with work on our ecosystems project. This will extend into the ecosystems of MN as well as the resources and engineering of resources that take place in our home state.

To review our past topics and preview some upcoming ones, feel free to explore the links and ideas below over winter break.

⇒ **Opportunities for learning at home:**

Students will be presenting (5B) or working on (5A) our ecosystems project when we return from break. Students are welcome to bring their ecosystems packet home to work on over the long break.

Take a trip to a MN state park to see the biome up close http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/map.html

Use this website to explore the various biomes of MN. <http://dnr.state.mn.us/biomes/index.html>

Social Studies: After covering election content, the Seven Year’s War, Pre-Revolution Colonies, and the American Revolution, the 5th Grade is ready to start next quarter by discussing some of the important documents that shaped our nation!

⇒ **Opportunities for learning at home:** 5th graders would benefit from:

Reading the Articles of Confederation

Reading the Declaration of Independence

Reading “Common Sense” by Thomas Paine

Reading the Bill of Rights (at least reading about what the 10 amendments were)

Watching Disney’s “Johnny Tremain”

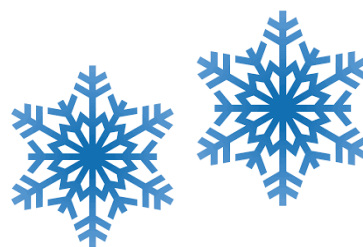
Watching A&E’s “Benedict Arnold: A Question of Honor”

Reading Childhood of Famous Americans books on Francis Marion, George Washington, Paul Revere, Thomas Jefferson, Crispus Attucks, etc.

Advisory: In Advisory we have been doing some lessons from “The Middle School Student’s Guide to Ruling the World.”

Announcements: Have a great winter break!

Inspirations: It was inspiring to see students working hard as the quarter comes to a close.



6th Grade

Math: The sixth graders learned many different topics this semester in math. They did a great job understanding the concepts of rates and ratios and then continued their understanding as we moved into percentages.

⇒ **Opportunities for learning at home:** Winter break is a great time for students to review what they have learned during the first semester. IXL is a great place for students to review these skills and work on what we have learned. Mathplayground.com is another site that can help to review some of the topics we have covered this semester. The fraction and decimal section or the percent and ratio section would be most helpful to your sixth grader. Students can also log-on to our online textbook over break to review topics we have learned. To log-on to the online textbook, go to my.hrw.com and use the username pmath22 and password d4j5a. On the online textbook, students can watch videos about what we have learned, do practice problems, and even look ahead to what is coming next.

Language Arts: Students finished writing their Ojibwe myths and shared them with the class. Next quarter we will begin literature circle novels.

⇒ **Opportunities for learning at home:** Students should do lots of reading at home over break! Consider some trips to the library for students to pick out books they enjoy. For reading comprehension practice, check out: www.readworks.org, and www.newsela.com.

Science: Throughout second quarter students in sixth grade have been studying ocean features and geography as well as beginning our unit on forces and motion. As we enter into third quarter students will be beginning the quarter with linking our force and motion unit to our third quarter study of engineering.

To review our past topics and preview some upcoming ones, feel free to explore the links and ideas below over winter break.

⇒ **Opportunities for learning at home:**

Students will enjoy these short videos from PBS. Included are various activities students may choose to see force and motions at work..

<http://www.pbs.org/opb/circus/classroom/circus-physics/activity-guide-newtons-laws-motion>

Social Studies: After covering election content, the fur trade, European immigration into Minnesota, treaties with the Dakota and the Ojibwe, the process of Minnesota becoming a state, and Minnesota in the Civil War, the 6th Grade is ready to start next quarter by discussing the U.S.-Dakota War!

⇒ **Opportunities for learning at home:** 6th graders would benefit from:

Reading the Star Tribune article "Caught in the Middle of the Dakota War" from 11/23/14

Watching "The Past is Alive Within Us" <http://video.tpt.org/video/2365142131/>

Watching "Dakota Conflict" <http://video.tpt.org/video/2259997177/>

Reading Childhood of Famous Americans books on Abraham Lincoln, Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant, etc.

Reading anything about post-civil war reconstruction in Minnesota.

Advisory: In Advisory we have been doing some lessons from "The Middle School Student's Guide to Ruling the World."

Announcements: Have a great winter break!

Inspirations: It was inspiring to see students working hard as the quarter comes to a close.



7th Grade

Math: Students may work on IXL or Khanacademy over the break to practice their math.

Language Arts:

Seventh Grade Language Arts should read over the break . We will be re-teaching the first week of Quarter 3. We should focus on main ideas, supporting details, Greek root words and inferences.

Science:

- ⇒ **Opportunities for Learning at Home:** Go for a deeper dive into the human immune system by participating in an interactive quest to eliminate the mumps virus from a human body <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/aids/immune.html> or begin preparing for Quarter 3 by watching a National Geographic documentary on how fossil records enhance our understanding of the evolution of life on Earth. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SiN0jxZ6l2w>.

Social Studies:

- ⇒ **Opportunities for Learning at Home:** Over Winter Break, I encouraged all Social Studies students to keep up with the news. We have been following several stories as a class and I would love for students to continue to follow them and be prepared to discuss and analyze them when they return. As always, students are encouraged to follow the news they are personally interested in as well as any news that affects our home in the Twin Cities. Have a wonderful break and I look forward to Q3.

Advisory: Advisory is discussing hope this month.

Inspirations: Everyone has seemed eager and excited about coming back after break.

8th Grade

Math: Students may work on IXL or Khanacademy over the break to practice their math.

Language Arts: Seventh Grade Language Arts should read over the break . We will be re-teaching the first week of Quarter 3. We should focus on main ideas, supporting details, Greek root words and inferences.

Science:

- ⇒ **Opportunities for Learning at Home:** Check out Meteorologist Paul Huttner's Updraft blog to learn about the science behind current weather patterns <http://blogs.mprnews.org/updraft/author/phuttner> or begin preparing for Quarter 3 by visiting NASA's website to learn about the new Orion space project or the Rosetta comet <http://www.nasa.gov/audience/forstudents/> .

Social Studies:

- ⇒ **Opportunities for Learning at Home:** Over Winter Break, I encouraged all Social Studies students to keep up with the news. We have been following several stories as a class and I would love for students to continue to follow them and be prepared to discuss and analyze them when they return. As always, students are encouraged to follow the news they are personally interested in as well as any news that affects our home in the Twin Cities. Have a wonderful break and I look forward to Q3.

Advisory: Advisory is planning the next Monday Morning Meeting.

Art

Mrs. Schwartz and Mrs. Shelton would like to encourage every grade to go look at art over break.

Some local museums include:

- Minneapolis Institute of Art (Minneapolis)
- Walker Art Museum (Minneapolis)
- Russian Art Museum (Minneapolis)
- Weismann Art Museum (U of M Campus)

Below we have listed what each grade level has focused on this past quarter. While at these art museums look for the following examples! Bring a sketchbook along as well and draw what you see!

Lower Academy

Kindergarten: warm and cool colors, monsters

1st and 2nd Grade: 2D versus 3D, Greek Architecture (columns, pediment, Parthenon), Symmetry

3rd and 4th Grade: Chinese Brush Painting, Gothic Architecture (Notre Dame), Clay/Ceramics

Upper Academy

5th and 6th Grade: Gothic Architecture, Gargoyles, Value, Charcoal, Classical Architecture, Greek and Roman Sculptures, Super Heroes, Plaster

7th and 8th Grade: Painting Since WWII, Artists: Warhol, Pollock, de Kooning, Frankenthaler, Lichtenstein, Bearden, Lawrence, Rothko

Art Announcements:

After break 3rd and 4th grade will be doing a project with thin cardboard. We will be collecting cereal boxes when we return!

Have a great break :)

Spanish

Optional Winter Break Learning Activities:

Grades K-4: Worksheet about winter

5th Grade: Study vocabulary words for the preliminary lesson on Classzone.com

6th Grade: Study vocabulary words for Unit 2, Lesson 1 on Classzone.com

7th Grade: Study vocabulary words for Unit 4, Lesson 1 on Classzone.com

8th Grade: Study vocabulary words for Unit 6, Lesson 1 on Classzone.com

Online activities:

Grades K-8

- BrainPop in Spanish
- Duolingo (free to set-up an account)
- Mi Mundo en Palabras
- National Geographic (Spanish)
- Concentration Game
- El Alfabeto
- Literacy Center
- Maya y Miguel
- Babbel
- <http://spanish-resources.com/>

Grades 5-8

- Classzone.com - Click on the Avancemos 1 textbook. This site is a great resource for practicing vocabulary and grammar concepts. It offers animated grammar, an at home tutor, culture, conjuguemos to practice conjugating verbs, online review with flashcards, self-check quizzes & games, and downloads of both audio and video from the textbook. Students can do the vocabulary flashcards for other units to learn additional words.

Physical Education

Encourage your student(s) to complete at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day over break. It is winter and we live in Minne-snow-da. Please take in and enjoy our winter by cross country skiing, snowshoeing, downhill skiing, snowboarding, ice fishing (when lakes freeze over safely), building snowmen, and tag games in the snow. Dress for the weather, be safe and enjoy! For tips on how to avoid frostbite and hypothermia, visit <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/how-to-avoid-frostbite-hypothermia/> (2010).

As we are moving into nutrition in upper academy, encourage your student(s) to log food/liquid intake for at least 24 hours (up to a week) as well as physical activity. For further enrichment, help find how many calories they took in and burned each day by visiting <http://caloriecount.about.com/>. A free site that does the calculations for you is <http://www.myfitnesspal.com/> which also helps with weight maintenance, loss, and gain.

Have a smart, safe, and healthy winter break, see you next year!!

MUSIC

K-3rd Grade

Just because you are on break does not mean you have to stop making music! Here are some ways to keep making music through your winter break:

1. Keep the Beat Challenge: Find the steady beat to a song and see if you can keep the beat without switching to the rhythm of the words!
2. Follow the words: Follow the rhythm of the words by clapping, tapping, or with your shoulders, or toes!
3. Dance to your favorite song! Keep your body moving to the beat by dancing to your favorite tune!
4. Go caroling: With your favorite adult, give back to your neighborhood or community by caroling with your family and friends! What is your favorite winter song to share?

Inspirations: Thank you to the Upper Academy Choir, Bands and Orchestra for a wonderful concert last week. Your music is such a gift!

4th Grade

Over Winter Break, students in 4th grade can practice their note reading skills on musictheory.net and they can continue honing their recorder skills! Recorders are reasonably priced at around \$5, so they make a great investment in your child's musical future! They can also practice singing—the primary focus of 3rd quarter.

5th & 6th Grade

Over Winter Break, students in 5th grade can practice their note reading skills on musictheory.net. They can practice their guitar skills as well, the focus of our 3rd quarter work.

7th Grade

Over Winter Break, students in 7th grade can continue composing original music on free software like MuseScore and on web-based composition programs like noteflight.com. This is a great way to get a leg up on our 3rd quarter work: composing piano inventions!

8th Grade

Over Winter Break, students in 8th grade can blow the dust off their recorders and practice note reading on musictheory.net. Our unit will focus on playing complex ensemble music on recorders and xylophones.

