

Birch Island Team



Happy November! It is hard to believe that today is the last day for grading Quarter 1. Birch students have been working hard and have proven that they are in charge. We want to thank all teachers and parents for your commitment in helping our students succeed.

On that note, we would love to see you at conference time on November 23rd and 24th. Your child should have given you a letter with a "class" code for you to sign up electronically using PTCFast.com. If you haven't seen this letter, please contact your child's advisor to set up a time that is convenient to you.

- November 9th Quarter 1 ends
- November 17th Report cards scheduled to go home
- November 21st, 22nd Parent-Teacher Conferences
- November 23rd, 24th NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving
- November 30th Picture Retakes

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Christine Capobianco
Science
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The Husky Herald
November edition available

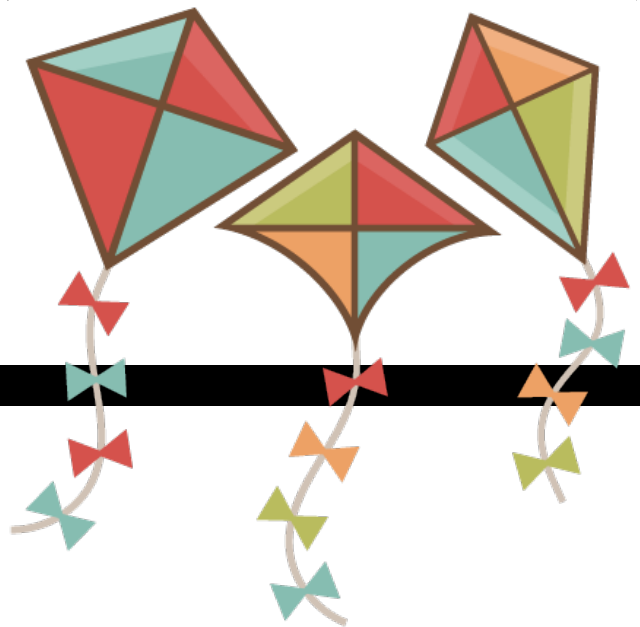
Language Arts

We completed our reading of *Iqbal* and are now beginning the argumentative essay. Students will create a thesis statement on either how courage is contagious in *Iqbal*, or how the symbolism of the kite is weaved throughout the story. Students will learn how to gather evidence to support their claim and create an outline before we begin, which will make writing the essay *much* easier! We'll learn the value of transition words as well as how to I.C.E. quotes (Introduce. Cite. Elaborate.) The essay will be due before the Thanksgiving break.

Mini-G lesson: Adjective quiz completed on 11/6. Next up – Adverbs!



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Science

Phew! We have finished the first quarter and are off and running for the next unit. As 6th graders have finished reading *Iqbal*, Bailey and Birch science teachers are coming together to have the students build a tetrahedral kite. The kite is a symbol throughout the text and this stem challenge will allow students to work together to use minimal resources in designing a kite of their own. This hands –on activity will take place next week with Thursday /Friday slotted for Operation Kite Flying. Let's help with have good wind to kick off this next quarter!



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Math

We are finishing up fractions in periods 6 and 7 next week. They have a solid understanding of fractions thanks to their elementary teachers! We were able to move through the unit quickly as a result. After our testing for the unit, we will move to algebra! That word alone brings excitement to the kids in these classes. If your child is looking for some extra practice, go to google and type in, "Algebra games for 6th graders." They'll get ahead by playing some online games that add a little fun to learning as well. Kids can also create an account on khanacademy online. I love it since it offers tutorials for those needing another explanation. Also, don't forget about the 6th grade math team on Wednesday mornings and Math Counts after school on Thursdays for some additional math extensions.

In periods 2 and 3 we have just finished the unit on decimals, LCM and GCF, prime factorization, order of operations and exponents. Next week we will tackle the fractions unit. If they are like the afternoon classes, we'll breeze through it quickly as well. We'll take as much time as necessary to ensure their success. For those looking to work on something at home, quiz your child on their multiplication facts while riding in the car. It's amazing how easy math can be when they know their facts well. Thank you for your continued support at home.

We are finishing up lots of hard work filling in holes we have found through our initial assessments in class and we are proud to say that many students are making terrific progress. We with Whole numbers and Decimals and have taken our Chapter 1 test. We are now moving on to FRACTIONS! We can quickly see that this unit will need some back filling before we start but as soon as we feel they have the basics we will be ready to roll. With the holidays fast approaching and lots of cooking happening – this is a great time to make fractions come to life. Let your kids help you bake and show them how you double recipes or cut them in half. Enjoy!



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