

Birch Island Team

Greeting Birch Families:

We now officially in the home stretch! Parent-teacher conferences were a success before April break and we want to thank all who attended and shared interesting stories about our students. We also want to thank you for returning any paperwork in a timely manner. We understand if you had a conflict and could not attend; please make sure you return any forms signed.

Tuesday May 8th	ALL TOWN CONCERT
Wednesday May 9th	ACTIVITY DAY: EARLY RELEASE
Thursday May 10th	CIVIL RIGHTS DAY
Friday June 1st	STEP UP DAY
	SCIENCE EXHIBIT
	ART SCOOP

Andrew Kosak Social Studies Advisor	Kelly Dorr Math Advisor	Christine Capobianco Science Advisor	Carrie Sullivan Language Arts Advisor	Catherine Nein Guidance Counselor	Becky DeMars Special Education Advisor	Pete Stevens Gifted & Talented Advisor	Kari McCarthy Art Advisor	Tatiana Lera World Languages Advisor Team Leader
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REMEMBER
THE MOMENTS
THAT MATTER.

There are a **very few yearbooks** still available for purchase. They will go fast, so first come, first served!

The price is still only \$27 and checks should be made to Brunswick Junior High School.

Please include your name, grade, and homeroom teacher with your check and bring to Mrs.Hench.

Language Arts

POETRY

Language Arts with Sullivan— Students did great job with figurative language, both identifying its use in poetry, as well as playing with figurative language in their own writing. We have covered simile, metaphor, alliteration, onomatopoeia, personification, hyperbole and idiom. Each day started with a (*just-for-fun*) poem. This week a special guest shared "Jabberwocky" by Lewis Carroll — Bailey Island Science teacher, Mr. Higgins, who is still able to recite the poem by heart! Also, ask Siri what her favorite animal is – sometimes you'll get "the Jabberwocky!" The Figurative Language Quiz was on Friday, 4/27. **Poetry Packets due May 8th**. Look for a "blue sheet" in their LA binders for requirements. My LA classes are also reading novels in verse including *Love that Dog*, *The Crossover*, *Out of the Dust* and *Brown Girl Dreaming*.



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In LA with Mrs. Morin...

Students have been studying figurative language and just took the quiz this week. They have also been studying poetry and hear a poem each day at the beginning of class. They are encouraged to explore poems and share their favorite(s) with the class. They will be making a poetry packet over the next few weeks to include their favorite poems they have written as well as poems by other authors. Also over the next few weeks, classes will be doing a novel study in small groups. They will be responsible for keeping up with the assigned chapters, come up with discussion questions, and participate in the discussion with their group each week.



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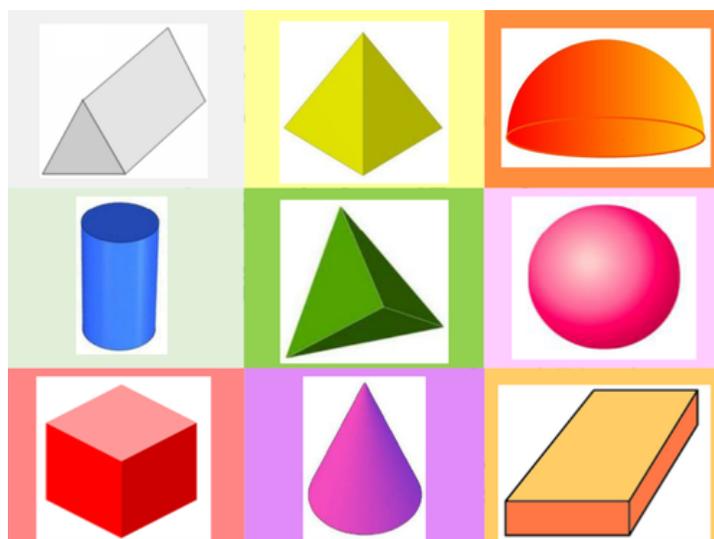


from the Math department

During the upcoming weeks, students will be screened for placement into advanced pre-algebra (grade 7) or algebra classes (grade 8) for next year. The screening criteria is listed in the student handbook. The Star test and a diagnostic skills test will be administered to help determine student placement. A teacher recommendation is also considered.



Angles, protractors, polygons, area, perimeter, circumference,..... GEOMETRY is under way and the kids are doing an amazing job. We just completed our second assessment and the kids showed huge gains and a greater understanding of finding the area and perimeter of shapes. We are moving on to surface area and volume of 3D shapes.



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Social Studies

Social Studies with the Fabulous Mr. K

Last week the students undertook another ancient engineering challenge. After they watched some short films about ancient irrigation, they needed to apply this information as they created an irrigation system that would transport water at least three feet to two separate fields (Red Solo Cups). These traditional irrigation methods all incorporated different simple machines, including levers, pulleys and wheels. Using straws, tubing, smaller cups, pie tins, clay, toothpicks and other everyday objects, they needed to develop a plan and calculate the costs for building their system; keeping their costs at a reasonable level was one of their objectives, as it relates to our economics power standard. In addition, they learned about supply and demand, since the cost of building materials rose as the supply of them decreased.



This week the students focused on Mesoamerica, as they learned more about archaeological discoveries, Mayan glyphs, city-states and the ever exciting game of pok-ta-pok. They read an article and selected one of four formats to present their understanding of the key concepts and information in it.

In addition, we made a timeline of Mesoamerican civilizations, learned about how the Aztecs turned the cacao bean into a delicious treat, and listened to a song about Mayan accomplishments.



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