

## SIC UPDATE – JANUARY 2015

### School Priority: Engaging Instruction and Assessment

#### STEAM

6th Grade – Implementation of several proposals from the STEAM Garden Unit is underway. Enrichment students are constructing a cold-frame in a raised bed following a design from a student group and using donated materials. Students will plant the carrots, lettuce, and cabbage that have sprouted in classroom planting before winter break. We continue collection of 2-liter bottles to construct a greenhouse in the garden. This group seeks guidance from the community to design the structure and the soda bottle walls of the greenhouse. A third group submitted a grant to “Katie’s Krops” and located an organization that would accept vegetables produced in the garden. A committee of school and community members will be asked to review additional proposals for feasibility, funding, and installation timeline. Volunteer labor will be needed.

7th Grade – On December 19, students stayed in blocked classes to watch student-produced marketing pitches. They collaboratively posted positive comments and suggestions via Edmodo. The teacher teams chose the top 11. Our community Sharks are in the final stages of selection for the top 2 and award of seed money.

8th Grade – Art classes are designing flags for the new land in the Transformation unit. Math classes have choreographed and danced changing mathematical functions on the coordinate plane. Science students determined and shared the adaptations needed for survival of a species with the new location of South Carolina. Social students have debated new government and policies. ELA students have written manifestos. Drama and Band/String students are learning about transformations in their content areas. Drama examined transformation through “The Grinch” play and Band/Strings learned about transformation and composed and performed a transformed piece.

Teachers also met to reflect on each unit. The critical analysis of each unit will help teachers refine their planning processes for the next STEAM units, as well as improve currently published STEAM units for next year’s implementation.

#### ENRICHMENT

- Leaders in History – close reads to extend knowledge re leaders in current unit : create video for use in all classes
- Forces and Motion lab
- Genetics lab
- Extra Time and Help – End of Q2 math
- Symmetry -- Snowflakes from 6 pack plastics
- Keeping is Cursive: refreshing students’ skills on the art of cursive writing
- Geography Bee – review and practice for the upcoming Geography Bee scheduled for January 23.
- Battle of the Brains – Practice for Battle of the Brains Competition scheduled for February 10

### School Priority: Culture that Supports 21st Century Learning

#### COUNSELING & CAREERS

- Enrichment groups: Stress and Emotion Management grades 7th and 8th
- January 15th - end 2nd quarter
- January 20th - New 2nd semester related arts classes begin
- January 23rd - Gathering of the Falcons- 2nd quarter Awards/character recognitions and report cards go home.
- January 23rd - 6th grade only NEW Beta Club invitations.
- January 26 - Feb 6: IGP conferences with Parents and students
- January 30th - Last day to nominate 8th grade student for ACE award

#### PBIS

Our students continue to exceed our behavioral expectations. While still focusing on fewer classroom disruptions, we are also focusing on peer encouragement and support.

## NEWS & CELEBRATIONS

- Mr. Edwards' homeroom was the undefeated 6<sup>th</sup> grade intramural basketball champions.
- Student Council meets Jan. 15. 8<sup>th</sup> grade Beta Club meets Jan 13. 7<sup>th</sup> grade Beta Club meets Jan. 28.
- Girls Soccer conditioning begins January 20.
- Geography Bee is scheduled for January 23.
- Lunch & Learn: tentatively scheduled for January 30
- Spring Sports Tryouts for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders begin February 2.
- Spring Dance scheduled for February 6.
- Remember that we are seeking community news about Sevier students. Forms are on the website.

## School Priority: Meaningful Use of Technology and Community Resources

### STEAM ADVISORS

STEAM Advisory Committee met on December 18. George Manly of VU-Room and Cate Tyson of ScanSource have joined the group. They reviewed the STEAM units in progress and shared advice for expanding our STEAM mentor base. Additional discussion centered on funding sources for technology and projects. The next STEAM Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for February 12 at 7:45 a.m.

#### Upcoming Events:

- Robotics teams will travel to Anderson for a Robotics tournament on January 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Job Shadowing Day for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be Friday, February 6, 2015.

### INFORMATION PERTINENT TO QUESTIONS SUBMITTED AT DECEMBER SIC MEETING

1. Question related to the new State Testing instrument – ACT Aspire: District personnel could be available to discuss in March meeting if desired by the group.
2. Morning drop-off and support for driver pull up to crosswalk: Signs are ordered to support between 8:10 and 8:25, and always during rain. In case of rain, a second staff member will support pull up to crosswalk from 8:10 – 8:25.
3. To help with the improvement of ID compliance we are offering a special sale and an opportunity to set up an ID account.  
The sale price for a single new ID on January 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> is \$3.  
You can also set up an ID account in the front office. If a student forgets their ID, a student can stop by the front office to get one from their account. There is a \$10 minimum to open an account. On January 20 and 21, your 10 dollars will reserve 4 ID's. Starting January 22<sup>nd</sup>, IDs will return to the regular price of \$5."

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