

GATEWAY

October, 2015

“Gifted And Talented Education With ALL Youth”

**Mrs. Anderson,
Mrs. Contrino,
Mrs. Marks
Gateway Teachers
Grades 6-7**

Newsletter Highlights:

- Mission
- Intensive Support
- DI

MISSION

To support **ALL** students through talent development. To identify, challenge and encourage academically advanced and creative thinkers.



STEM

6th Grade: Students are completing their first inquiry based unit. This unit from the National Institute of Health introduced writing testable questions, collecting evidence using data, and creating conclusions with evidence. Students will apply their skills during the Barbie Bungee Jump in October.

7th Grade: Students have been introduced to Newton's Law of Motion. They will continue to work with these laws as we investigate falling objects in the coming weeks.



Advanced Math Gateway

6th Grade: Students will begin learning patterns associated with perfect squares. Students should practice patterns and learn the perfect squares at home. Encourage them to show you the interesting patterns (one a week is plenty). During the semester, we will build on this knowledge.

7th Grade: Students are continuing to apply their knowledge at a more complex level. They are working with binomial expansion. During class, students are encouraged to make connections with previous knowledge and find patterns to deepen understanding. As we complete factoring with lead coefficients, students will expand higher level binomials using patterns found within Pascal's Triangle.

Project Based Learning



6th Grade: Students are determining what the cost and needs would be for housing chickens at the school. They researched types of chickens, diet, and space requirements. They were given a \$2,500 and had to create a budget which included all the one time and ongoing expenses. Next, they will design a plan showing the dimensions of the run and coop for housing 12 or 18 chickens.

7th Grade: Students are critiquing Daylight Saving Time. Students researched the history and the pros and cons of DST. Students used their findings to write an executive summary of DST, which included the summary, pros and cons, and their recommendation whether DST should stay or go. For projects, some students are creating Keynote presentations, while others are participating in mini debates.



Advanced ELA

6th Grade: The 6th graders are halfway through their first novel of the year, *The Graveyard Book*, by Neil Gaiman. The students typically read 60 pages for homework each week, and return to class ready to discuss and write about key elements of the novel. In addition, everyone has been given their October writing assignment, to be completed on their Google Docs. At month's end, we will be conducting our annual Halloween writing contest! The 6th graders will be reading a packet of 7th grade stories, and voting for their favorites. The 7th graders will be judging the 6th grade entries. It is exciting and motivating for young writers to read the work of other students!

7th Grade: The 7th graders are hard at work wrapping their minds around their first novel of the year, *The Book Thief*, by Markus Zusak. This is probably the most "adult" book that most of these students have encountered in their reading journey thus far. The novel's setting, Nazi Germany, is dark and disturbing; yet the tale that Zusak shares with us is brilliant in its poetic language and its heroic characters. We have had many fascinating discussions regarding Zusak's writing style; and I hope that his work will serve to influence and inspire the students to push themselves to further develop their own writer's voice. Fortunately, they have a chance to flex their writing muscles immediately, as they have begun working on their entries for the annual Halloween writing contest!

Destination Imagination



Looking for educational, extra-curricular ideas, or additional ways to challenge students at home?

Well, look no further! Gateway and the BPS have Destination Imagination teams! DI is a team and project-based program that encourages students to solve creative challenges, communicate effectively and HAVE FUN!

Contact the DI coordinator, Lynore Frew for more information:
Frew_Lynore@barnstable.k12.ma.us



FPS

This year we have four 6th grade FPS teams, and four 7th grade FPS teams. All eight teams have begun the year with a "practice problem" regarding animal welfare issues. The teams have been learning the first three steps of the problem solving process: 1. Identify 16 challenges the team recognizes within the Future Scene. 2. Select an Underlying Problem. Which of the 16 challenges is "most solvable?" 3. Produce 16 solution ideas for the one Underlying Problem.

The 7th grade teams are fully competitive this year; going up against other middle school FPS teams from around Massachusetts. The first practice problem competition date is October 23rd! Go Barnstable!

Barnstable Gateway Program

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