

YELLOW TEAM



Spotlight on Students

November's theme at JGMS was "Gratitude." During advisory, students wrote notes of gratitude to special teachers, coaches, tutors, friends and family. December's theme is "Positive Attitude: The Choice is Yours." Students will be engaged in discussions around this theme during their daily advisory meetings. Every day during announcements positive messages (quotes, saying, acts of kindness, etc) will be read over the loud speaker.

Below are a few quotes for what students on the yellow team felt most grateful for this Thanksgiving:

"All my teachers and friends...they are the BEST"

"I am thankful for my Uncle who helps me with H.W."

"I am most thankful for my little sister"

"I am thankful for spending Thanksgiving with my family"

Updates and Reminders

As **Term 1** has ended we want to remind students and parents of the Orange Team policy that **late homework will no longer be accepted** unless extenuating circumstances dictate a need for an extension. This is consistent with our continued emphasis on the development of each student's sense of responsibility and organization.

Auditions for the Spring Musical, **Beauty and the Beast** will take place after school **Monday Dec. 8th through Wednesday Dec. 11th.**

PL-874 Forms were sent how at the beginning of October and need to be returned. There are still a handful of 6th grade students who have not turned these forms in. We need your help reaching 100% compliance. Please check your student's homework folder as additional copies have been sent home with students who have not turned the form in.

Students on both the Orange and Yellow team will be traveling to the Chelmsford Performing Arts Center in Chelmsford, MA to see **Mayhem Poets**. Permission slips and \$15 payment are due **Dec. 2nd.**

FALL CURRICULUM REVIEW

ENGLISH

In English, we have begun reading C. S. Lewis' *The Magician's Nephew*, which has plunged us into the land of Narnia! We are hard at work on our "Character Studies," and we will soon be completing "Motif Hunts" and learning the components of a good body paragraph. We also have been practicing the skill of taking direct quote evidence from a novel (using correct quotation formatting); we will be using this skill a lot during the research unit that follows this one.

MATH

In 6th Grade Math we just finished our decimal unit and we are moving on to fractions. We used the short week before Thanksgiving to work on a Tessellation Project that includes a reflection and a rotation, which are both transformations that commonly appear on the Coordinate Plane. This opportunity allowed the students a chance to bring some creative artwork into math class and was a nice break from the strict calculations of decimals. We will explore fractions and percents before we learn about Ratios, Rates, and Proportional Reasoning.

SCIENCE

In the 6th Grade, science has gotten off to an exciting start! Students learned how to use their observational skills to make inferences in the lab. We discussed lab safety, and have begun to perform experiments. Students learned how to measure mass and volume, and are using this knowledge to now calculate density. All of these basic skills are leading us towards our big unit on experimental design, which starts after Thanksgiving Break. Students will be learning how to design and conduct experiments, as well as demonstrate their results mathematically (through graphs and charts).

Historically this is a fun, hands on unit that the kids have a lot of fun learning about!

SOCIAL STUDIES

All sixth grade students are just finishing up a five themes of geography project based on a European country. The project focused on research skills including taking notes, selecting appropriate sources, synthesizing information, citing sources and using GoogleDocs.

LEARNING STRATEGIES

Yellow Team Learning Strategies has begun a unit on how to analyze fiction. To do this, I am following a book called *Notice and Note* by Kylene Beers and Robert E. Probst. The students will learn about six different "signposts" to look out for when reading fiction. When they notice a "signpost," they should stop and ask the anchor question that goes along with each "signpost." The anchor question is supposed to help students dig deeper into the text. We will be finishing the signposts and taking a quiz before December vacation. To fill in the few classes before the vacation, we will begin working on some of the Habits of Mind.