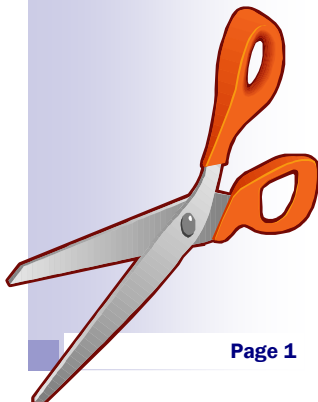
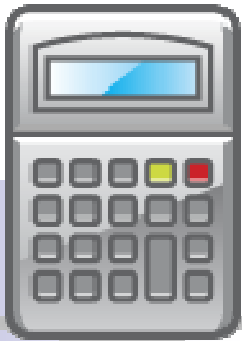
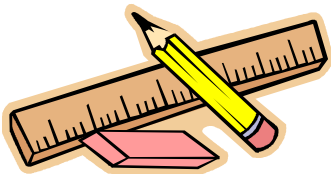


Team Mahuwesta

Mahuwesta Times

Special points of interest:

- The Wild West
- Superstar Science
- What's New in Math
- Career Day
- WASL Resources



From Honor to Responsibility

By Jeanette Manwell

Last month we focused on the life skill of honor. We discussed what it meant to have personal integrity, to do the right thing even when no one else is watching. While being honorable isn't always a life and death situation, we identified that often times doing something that is honorable does involve sacrifice. Sometimes it isn't always the easy thing to do, it doesn't always benefit ourselves, but there is great satisfaction in knowing you have done the right thing. The following students were identified for exhibiting honor in their lives: Rebecca G., Randi H., Spencer H., Connor D., Kaylee H., Luke H.,

Danny S., Jerrod C., Schae E., Erin T., Haylee G., and Cameron T.

This month, we will be considering the life skill of responsibility. We will talk about what it means to take responsibility in varying aspects of life. There are so many ways we demonstrate responsibility in our lives, at home, at school, and at play.



Shapes and Space

By Star Ulasewicz

We just began our fourth book, *Shapes and Space*. Students will begin to think three-dimensionally by exploring nets that can be folded into cubes and other solids. (Nets are like outer skins of 3-dimensional solids.) In this unit, students will be working through formulas to find the surface area and volume of solids such as cubes and rectangu-

lar/triangular prisms. We will strategize ways to maximize and minimize surface area and compare volumes of like solids. Students will gain conceptual knowledge through manipulatives like unit centimeter cubes and geometric blocks. For many lessons scissors are required. Please check in with your student to make sure he/she has the necessary math supplies: scissors, rulers, calculators.



Language Arts and Social Studies

Life Skills

- September -Respect
- October-Ambition
- November-Thankfulness
- December-Compassion
- January-Self-discipline
- February-Honor
- March-Responsibility
- April-Courage
- May-Perseverance
- June-Citizenship

"I believe that every right implies a responsibility; every opportunity, an obligation; every possession, a duty. ."

~John D. Rockefeller Jr.



Encourage your student to read at home. Silent, sustained reading can improve grammar and vocabulary.



By Melanie Weakley

The final trimester of the school year and your student's middle school career, will soon be upon us. The last 12 weeks of an 8th grader's life can be trying as they are forecasting for high school classes and preparing for the transition. In language arts and social studies, we will be actively engaged in reading and writing in order to prepare your student for the challenges of high school.

Social Studies:

We're heading out West in 8th grade American history as students examine the various aspects of Westward Expansion (including the War of 1812) during the month of March.



The process of American Westward Expansion will be examined through a thematic approach as opposed to a chronological approach. Students will be focusing on the voyage of Lewis and Clark, the conflict and cooperation with

England and Native Americans, the technological advances that made travel west possible, societal concerns such as life on the frontier, and discrimination against certain cultural groups such as the Chinese, Irish, and Native Americans.

In Mrs. Weakley's and Ms. Manwell's class, students will complete a culminating project where they respond to a famous piece of artwork by John Gast and create their own visual perception of Westward Expansion where they prove their understanding in each of the themes.

Language Arts:

In Mrs. Weakley's class, students are reading, writing, and studying poetry. An emphasis will be placed on recognizing poetry terms, such as alliteration, metaphor, imagery, etc. Students will be exposed to a variety of poems and literary techniques and will have several opportunities to create their own masterpieces.

In Mrs. Manwell's class, students are studying grammar and vocabulary, emphasizing proper comma



usage and developing vocabulary using Greek and Latin root words. Also, **Book Project 3 is due on Friday, April 10.** Extra credit is being offered for student participation in a Friend Raiser Book Club (scheduled to take place on Thursday, April 9 during FLEX). The Friend Raiser book can be used as the subject for Book Project 3.

In both classes, students will complete a persuasive "Letter to the Chief" using historical facts as evidence as to whether their chief should sign a peace treaty with the United States government. This essay will be completed mostly as homework.



Career Exploration Day 2009

By Jeanette Manwell

Our 6th annual Career Exploration Day is scheduled for Thursday, April 23. This happens to be "Bring Your Child to Work" day. Due to WASL scheduling in the month of April, this is the best day for the event.

All Skyridge students, grades 6-8, will be participating in career exploration

in one of two ways. They can stay at Skyridge to listen to four career guests of various fields or they shadow and interview four people of various careers within their parent's company of employment. Specific information and assignment requirements for the career exploration options will be communicated home at the beginning of April.

For Career Day at Skyridge, we are looking for people who work in the fields of Arts & Communication, Business Operations, Marketing & Management, Science, Social & Human Services, and Technical fields. If you are interested in being a part of our career day at Skyridge, please contact Ms. Manwell via email.

What's Happening in Science?

Skyridge Middle School
5220 NW Parker St.
Camas, WA 98607

Contact Info:

Manwell

Phone: 360-833-5800 ext. 2855
Email: jeanette.manwell@camas.wednet.edu
Web: www.manwellpages.com

Weakley

Phone: 360-833-5800 ext. 2853
Email: melanie.weakley@camas.wednet.edu

Ulasewicz

Phone: 360-833-5800 ext. 2852
Email: star.moran@camas.wednet.edu

Hunting

Phone: 360-833-5800 ext. 2854
Email: brenton.hunting@camas.wednet.edu

Koty

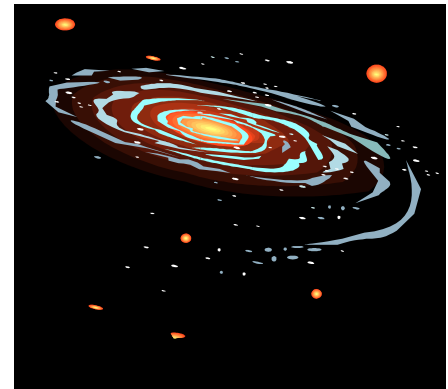
Phone: 360-833-5800 ext. 2861
Email: nancy.koty@camas.wednet.edu

By Brenton Hunting

The month of March will be a very busy time for science. Currently, we are studying relationships between the sun, earth, and moon; such as: lunar phases, eclipses, seasons, earth's rotation and revolution around the sun, energy transfer (light to heat), sun spots, and space weather. Next, students will explore the rest of our solar system by exploring the Earth's relationship with the other planets. We will focus on include: space exploration, designing a model solar system to scale (size and distance), impact craters, planetary surface features, surface gravity, gravity and orbital motion, and gravity's effect on tides.

There is a one hour parent meeting regarding **9th grade forecasting** scheduled on March 10 at CHS theatre – at 9 a.m. and again at 7 p.m. On March 12, Camas High School

counselors talk to all 8th grade students regarding 9th grade forecasting in all science classes. Every student will receive a forecasting guide and be asked to complete two separate forecasting forms for next year. These forms will need to be signed by parents and returned to me by Monday, March 16. Between freshman forecasting and WASL (in April) we continue to focus our studies on space and our solar system.



WASL Resources Online

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) has provided an online WASL resource center for families and students. It is available at <http://www.k12.wa.us/Resources/default.aspx>

The resource center provides students and their families with a convenient source of timely and important information regarding the WASL, retakes and alternative assessment options. Information is also included about testing in grades 3-8. Key features of the site include:

- A complete schedule for this year's WASL assessments, score releases and retakes.
- Straight forward answers in Q&A format about the development and scoring of the WASL.
- Simple tips to help prepare students for the exam.
- A link to a sample WASL test.
- Information on alternative assessments.
- Links to other important information related to WASL.



How You Can Help

If needed, make arrangements for your child to attend after school Math Lab or LA/SS Helpdesk, have students check with teacher for location.



Full Moon in March has been referred to as: "Worm Moon", "Crow Moon", "Crust Moon", "Sap Moon", and "Lenten Moon"