

# ***LEVEL 3 NEWS***

April 6, 2018

## **Stanford Achievement Test:**

**This Coming Week    April 9-13**

Dear Level 3 Families,

We will be doing standardized testing Monday-Thursday mornings this coming week. To help our testing go smoothly, we ask that

- students arrive at school on time
- students eat breakfast
- students do their best to get a good night's sleep each night.

**SNACKS:** We'll have healthy snacks for students during testing, such as cheese, hard-boiled eggs, and fresh fruit. We welcome any donation of healthy snacks during this week (in fact, we'll happily count it towards your parent volunteer hours!). If your family would like to donate a healthy snack such as grapes, cheese sticks, etc., please let us know. We will gratefully accept it!

## ***ACADEMICS***

### ***SIXTH GRADE***

This week the students had an opportunity to practice test taking skills in preparation for the SAT test next week. We talked about multiple choice tests, looked at sample questions, and went over some basic test taking skills. Our geometry lesson this week was about the different parts of a circle. Some of the vocabulary we covered was circumference, arcs, radii, diameter, chords, and segments. A favorite math lesson each year is one about the order of operations. Students learn

about the acronym PEMDAS. They came up with different phrases to help them remember the correct order. Next they had to solve some problems in order to find the correct measurements in a recipe to make chocolate fudge. The class went to FELT on Friday. This is always a wonderful experience for the students. They helped to pack over 400 bags of food for homeless students in Manatee county to take home over the weekend.

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## **SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE**

We continued our science work with a more advanced reading on vision and the evolution of eyes. Instead of answering questions, students took notes on the subtopics in the reading. Our cow eye dissection is still on the schedule, and will take place after standardized testing and our Spring Fling project is finished.

For our Geography and Current Events work, students had a reading and follow-up questions on desertification. We had an initial lesson and video on desertification (the process where damaged or mismanaged land becomes an infertile desert) right before the break. Our most recent *Upfront Magazine* had engaging articles on rhino extinction, hate speech: whether it should be protected by the First Amendment, and the recent student protests surrounding gun laws. Students each chose one of three articles to read, answer questions, and to write about. In Personal World, we had a short lesson on executive functions of the brain, and we'll be having more lessons in the coming weeks. Students were asked to make a list of a least five possible internship sites in the community that were of interest to them.

We started Baby Think-It-Over this week, and to say it is receiving strongly mixed reactions from our eighth grade students would be an understatement! Interestingly, when the baby cries, the student caring for the baby is quickly surrounded by a group of well-meaning peers, offering serious advice! Experiencing the demands of a newborn and learning to meet them in a responsible way is a powerful experience, even with a simulator. Needless to say, the baby will NOT be in operation during standardized testing!

Seventh and eighth graders have been working hard on their ambitious Spring Fling project, "World Cities." Each student has chosen an iconic building from somewhere in the world, and is creating a rendition of it in stained glass. All of the buildings will be connected in a "World City." We teachers had initially proposed that we do the project in wood, but the students lobbied enthusiastically for stained glass. After choosing buildings, we had a math lesson on proportional

scaling, and we calculated the relative heights of each of the buildings. Students have had review lessons on and practice cutting glass, and are currently working on their buildings.

In the last two weeks (both before and after the break) seventh and eighth grade students have done daily practice for the upcoming standardized tests. We've reviewed math procedures, grammar and punctuation rules, and more, to refresh students' skills. We wish we could say that standardized testing doesn't really matter for 7th and 8th grades (which *is* true for grades lower than seventh), but that would be untrue. Standardized testing results from both 7th and 8th grade can affect student's placement into advanced courses in high school. A good night's rest, breakfast, and emotional calm are the three most important factors for students' best performance. We realize that it is often a struggle to get adolescents to bed at a reasonable hour, as well as eat a good breakfast, and keep them in a "calm" mood! (We'll have "back-up" breakfasts here to help.) If students are tired, they can always have a nap at Personal Reflection time (students had an hour-long nap they day after the Alice musical) to help them catch up on sleep.



## Questions?

PARENTS AND STUDENTS: We encourage you to contact us with any questions and concerns. The best time to call us is in the evening; alternatively, you can email or text us any time:

Robin	<a href="mailto:redidin@gmail.com">redidin@gmail.com</a> 941-544-5617 (cell)	Beronica	<a href="mailto:charvero.14@gmail.com">charvero.14@gmail.com</a> 941-586-9024 (cell)
Deana	<a href="mailto:dreemelin@yahoo.com">dreemelin@yahoo.com</a> 941-932-7662 (cell)	Erica	<a href="mailto:eandre100@gmail.com">eandre100@gmail.com</a> 941-266-7636 (cell)



## *Thank You to...*

- Kelli MacLemore and Kris Fleddermann, for driving 6th grade students to and from, and chaperoning at F.E.L.T. community service.
- Kristine Fleddermann, her continued help with shopping for our snack business and hot lunch program!

*Level 3 Families, we are always grateful for all that you do!*

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## **Mark Your Calendars**

Standardized Testing..... April 9-12

Spring Fling.....Sat. April 14

**BIG TRIP: Heifer Ranch.....April 29-May 4**

Level 3 Internships..... May 14-18

8th Grade Graduation.....Thursday, May 24

**Regularly Scheduled:** Tuesday Tutorials.....3:15-4:30 PM

*The Level 3 Team:*

*-Robin, Deana, Erica, and Beronica*

L3 Newsletter by E-mail

Please send any email address changes and updates to [redidin@gmail.com](mailto:redidin@gmail.com)