

Junior High Newsletter

7M Bible

By Mr. Mulder

Our focus lately has been on the "heart conditions" of the kings of Judah, and we've been reading their stories from the book of Chronicles. The writer of Chronicles wants to make it very clear that when the kings were faithfully seeking the Lord, they were blessed for their efforts, while when kings had unfaithful hearts, they were punished, often in dramatically horrible ways. (Ask your 7th grader what happened to wicked king Jehoram, who came to a "terrible end.")

Through our study of the kings, we're also considering how we respond to the Lord's call in our own lives: how are our hearts? Are we seeking to faithfully do the Lord's will in our own lives? Or are we following our own ways, like the wicked kings we study? Please pray for all of us (teachers too!) as we seek to do the Lord's will.

8th Bible

By Mrs. Bruns

We continue to study the ministry of Christ. We have studied how the disciples and the Pharisees each struggle with understanding who Jesus was. The students have learned that Christ sought followers from all backgrounds, genders, and walks of life. They are also seeing His power over creation, Satan, disease, and death.

The Jews and Pharisees are realizing that He is not the Messiah they expected and begin to plot His death.

We will also study Christ's use of parables and act them out. Our overall what is becoming more clear is that following Jesus requires faith and a willingness to serve!

8th Science

By Mr. Mulder

8th graders have been considering diverse subject matter within the realm of biology this quarter. They have been learning about their nervous and endocrine systems while at the same time participating in a long-term project to help them discover some of the "rules" governing how traits are passed on from parents to offspring. Ask an 8th grader to explain what a "paper pet" is all about, and how they "breed."

We'll wrap up this semester with a quick look at the immune system--a very appropriate topic during cold and flu season! Get those flu shots, people!

7th Social Studies

By Mrs. Bruns

We finished up a unit on the Middle East several weeks ago. Cory Van Sloten was our guest speaker! We appreciated his talk about his time in the Service in Kuwait! The last couple of weeks we have been studying eastern Asia--China, Taiwan, Mongolia, Hong Kong, Japan, North and South Korea. Nick Lantinga came to our class to tell about his travels abroad in Asia! There is so much to learn about from the many countries of the world! God is incredible!

7th and 8th Grade Language Arts

By Mrs. Broers

Welcome to the second quarter of the school year. I enjoyed visiting with you at parent-teacher conferences several weeks ago, and I hope if anything comes up you will feel free to give me a call. Thanks for your ongoing support.

The seventh graders are working hard at editing for mechanics and application of skills. We spent numerous class periods working in four different centers, focusing on punctuation, spelling, vocabulary and reading comprehension. This proved a wonderful follow-up to the punctuation unit last quarter. Soon we will be returning to our language arts textbooks to work on comprehension. After Christmas break we will be breaking into smaller groups to read a variety of novels.

The eighth graders continue their work with writing and reading as well. They too just finished an exciting reading unit focusing on the short story "Flowers for Algernon". Following the Christmas break, their language arts and social studies time will be focusing on the civil war era in United States history. This is an integrated unit for the curricular areas of language arts, social studies, and computer. They will read many short stories from this time period and then will be responsible to write a journal from a time appropriate character of their choosing or complete a research paper based on facts from this time period.

In this holiday time, I am reminded daily of what a great gift we are given here at Sioux Center Christian School. I am enjoying my time with your children and thank you for sharing them with me. May our prayer be that we grow together in Christ.

7th Science

By Mr. Mulder

The two 7th grade classes have had different paths for the past couple of weeks: 7M has been considering how machines can make work easier, while 7B has been experimenting with static and current electricity. Visit <http://sites.google.com/site/mulder-science/Home/photos> for some pictures of 7M's amazing Lego creations and 7B's "hair-raising" adventures. :-) We'll soon be swapping topics to finish out the second quarter.

8th Social Studies

By Mrs. Bruns

We are finishing up our study of westward expansion. The many trials and hardships that came with packing up and heading west for "a better life". The idea of Manifest Destiny justified the desire to buy or take or fight for more land so the U.S. would reach from sea to sea. The students should be able to tell you how and when Texas and California became states! We are also finishing up our unit on the Constitution. They have been working on presidential commercials, trying to get a bill passed in the senate, or studying up on the Supreme Court Justices!

MERRY
CHRISTMAS

