

# Junior High Newsletter

## **7B Bible**

by Mr. Crull

We are beginning our serious study of the Israelite kings. We are talking about idols in Israel as well as our own lives today. We are also talking about the attributes of our God in comparison to the pagan idols. These discussions are very interesting. We are finding out that our God is always true to His Word! Talk about these things. These kids have some interesting insights into these things. Pray that I can lead them down a better understanding of who The God of All Creation is!

## **7th Social Studies**

by Mrs. Bruns

We started out the school year taking a look at our own community and what we appreciate about it. We expanded from our community to our state, country, and our world! God is creative! We realize that all people from all parts of the world are our brothers and sisters in Christ. We have begun a study of Africa and its many countries, varieties of people, animals, and land forms. Wow! What a beautiful world! This Africa "journey" will take several weeks, but we will learn a lot about its culture, economy, religions, and land.

## **8th Social Studies**

by Mrs. Bruns

We have started the year right where we left off--after the American Revolution and into early American government. The Lord certainly provided wise men to be our Founding Fathers! So many worked together to create a democracy and to write a constitution that have lasted over two hundred years! Ask your son/daughter about people like George Washington, James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and John Jay. They have learned a lot already this year!

## **7th grade math**

by Mr. Crull

We have a math text by Glencoe. It is very hands-on, and already expects students to do some critical thinking. This is very good, but does take adjustments. Because of this, answers are not always cut and dried. Each chapter often includes a project. Students, as well as teachers, have to be encouraged not to procrastinate. Maybe not mathematical, but this is a good study skill to learn. The text also integrates math into other subject areas making it easy to relate to their lives. In the first chapter we do some pre-algebra stuff. We define variables, order of operations, exponents, factors, and formulas. We do a lot of group work, so everybody appreciates each other's gifts. If you want to learn something, ask your child what a "tree fractal" is. Have fun helping your child in math. I think you will enjoy the text. You can find help at [www.glencoe.com](http://www.glencoe.com)

## 8th math

by Mr. Crull

The first few weeks are tough, because I have to make sure the students can do the basic operations without a calculator. This, for the most part, makes for unhappy campers. They will recover, however, and return to their the calculator. We are doing alot of problem solving. If students come home with one to solve, by all means help them, however, make sure you explain your thinking to them. It is fun to struggle with a problem together. Have they shared with you the “three sons”problem? It is a dandy.

## 8th Science

by Mr. Mulder

8th graders are currently exploring the design of the human body. This has proven to be a high-interest topic of study: the 8th graders have questions about their bodies! We’ve discussed the structures and functions of the skeletal and muscle systems, and we’ve recently begun an investigation of the digestive system. Still to come this quarter, a look at the circulatory, respiratory, and excretory systems, and...everyone’s favorite...frog dissection!

## 8th Bible

Mrs. Bruns

We have begun an in-depth study of the Gospels. We are taking a close look at the authors, their audience, and their purpose for writing. The students have written their own raps to help them remember the differences. We have also studied the parables from Matthew, the fast pace of Mark, the importance of prayer in Luke, and the "I Am" statements and "signs" in John. The ultimate message is that salvation is FREE and for ALL!

## Language Arts

by Mrs. Broers

Welcome back to a new school year. The weeks are already slipping by. Thank you for the help that you provide in your child’s education. The 7th graders are starting with a variety of short stories from their textbooks. We are focusing on constructing and writing good sentences. The 8th graders are reading their first novel of the year, The Giver. As we go through this school year, my prayer continues to be, that by working together, we can develop in these children a true love for the Lord.

## 7th Science

by Mr. Mulder

You may have heard your 7th grader mumbling things about “that crazy Mr. Mulder” and “*doing* science”—at least, I certainly hope so! 7th graders are finding that science truly is something to do, rather than just a subject to “study.” One of my major goals is to foster an attitude of exploration and questioning as we investigate the wonders of Creation. Hopefully, this continues to point our students toward the Creator as well!

7th graders have recently started a unit exploring motion and forces. They are devising “fair tests” to experiment with how things move and what causes objects to change their motion. Please enjoy photos of science lab activities; they are available at <http://sites.google.com/site/mulderscience/Home/photos> . Thanks for your encouragement and support!

**Thank you American  
State Bank for the  
Ice Cream Bars after  
Our field trip!**

## **Physical Education**

By Mrs. Fedders

Well, we are off and running to a great start in Junior high PE! And literally running! We are busy preparing for the first round of our Fitness tests and the mile run is a part of that. The students have been working hard getting ready and are already running a good portion of that mile and finding some success! Ask your student how their times are improving!

We have also begun the year with a Team Building unit, where we have focused on accepting everyone's strengths and abilities and working for the success of our groups and the cooperation of our class. We have had a lot of fun with "Crossing the River", Hidden Football, Group juggling, Hurry-up softball, Left vs. Right, Monarch and many others. The students have really enjoyed our activities and are showing some great efforts!

## **7th Grade Computers**

Driving Safely Through Cyberspace

By Mr. Bowar

Would you send your student out on the road without a drivers license? I'd hope your answer would be, "No!" The same is true for the Internet - the information superhighway. We are right in the middle of our Internet Driver License unit, and we're learning a lot about the history of the Internet, how it works, and how to use it safely and efficiently. We've been focused especially on how we should use the Internet as a Christian. The unit is split into five different themes: Safety:

Defensive Driving (how to stay safe while surfing), Manners and Communication:

Rules of the Road (what responsibilities we have while online), Advertising:

Online Billboards (how to recognize online advertising), Research: Knowing How to Ask for Directions and Use a Map (using the Internet for projects ad homework), and Technology: What You

Need to Know Before Hitting the Road (how the Internet works, vocabulary, how it was created). Our unit will hopefully lead to some SMART (Safety, Manners, Advertising, Research, and Technology) Internet drivers! To check out more of what we're doing, visit my Web page at <http://joshbowar.googlepages.com/internetdriverlicense>.

## **8th Grade Computers**

Putting Faith to Music

By Mr. Bowar

Lights...camera...action! It's that time of year already - the time when 8th graders are busy working on Bible iMovies in computer class! Each student has selected a song that they feel best expresses their faith or a song that they find to be worshipful and meaningful to them. Students first created a storyboard of their plans to help them stay organized during the project, and they are now busy finding pictures that have both visual interest and meaning, usually in a metaphoric way. After finding pictures, they will created a digital movie project based on their song.

Along the way, students are learning and practicing how to keep track of sources so that they can cite them in their final work.

Throughout the entire unit, we're focusing on worshipping through the projects that we are creating.

Once all of the movies are finished, we'll have a special premier showing of all of the films!