



FCMS NEWSLETTER

September 12, 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 9/17 - Maker Meeting (3:15-4:30)
- 9/26 - Parent Advisory Meeting @ 8:00
- 9/26 - Reward A Rebel (during lunches)
- 10/1 - Ingles Tools for Schools Contest Ends
- 10/5 - Reward Day
- 10/12 - Fall Social (3:15-5:30)
- 10/15-10/16 - Fall Break
- 10/17 - SGT @ 7:30am
- 10/19- REACH Signing Ceremony @ 9:00am
- 10/25 - Raising Digital Natives Facebook Live Event @ 8:30pm (Details Coming Soon)

MAKER MONDAY!!!

Our next Maker Monday Meeting will be Monday, September 17th after school until 4:30. Permission slips are available NOW in the Media Center. You must have a signed permission slip to attend and remember that space is limited so get it in quickly. You don't want to miss it!

INGLES TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS CONTEST!!!!

We need your help! The last page of this newsletter contains a sign up for Ingles Tools For Schools numbers. Our school gets a percentage of every dollar someone spends at Ingles when we link those numbers to FCMS. The student from each grade level with the most numbers will win an awesome prize! Extra sheets are available in the main office. The contest ends October 1st. Students need to return sheets to their 1st period teacher. (Please note: The Ingles Advantage Card Number is all 12 digits on the back of the card).

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6th Grade News

Social Studies: Sixth grade is the first year of a two year World Area Studies Course. Sixth graders study Latin America, Canada, Europe, and Australia. The domains include geography, government/civics, economics, and history. We are beginning our unit on forms of government and economic systems, and will be transitioning into our unit on Europe. We will be covering locations of countries and physical features, environmental issues, and the three main religions. We will also incorporate our government/economics unit into each unit the remainder of the year as we discuss type of government and type of economic systems for each country.

Reading: The beginning of 6th grade reading for 2018-2019 has been "golden" with a focus on the Yukon Gold Rush and the author Jack London. Students have also been learning how to map out a story's plot. Literary focus has been on plot, conflict, characterization, figurative language (including alliteration, onomatopoeia, similes, metaphors, personification and sensory imagery). Students will soon be reading FEVER

1793, a novel set during the deadly yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia in 1793. In addition to class work, students should be reading a library book every night since Reading Counts points are a requirement. The only way to get those points is by reading and taking the RC tests!

Also, please remember that Reading Counts points for the first nine weeks are due on October 5th! Advanced students must accumulate 20 points, whereas the other students must earn 15 points. Happy reading, everyone!

"No entertainment is so cheap as reading, nor any pleasure so lasting."-Mary Wortley Montague

Language Arts: Students are continuing work in our Parts of Speech Unit with pronouns. We will also be reviewing nouns and verbs. In October, we plan to begin our first writing assignment. Check Infinite Campus and the team websites for updates on classroom activities and assign-

ments. If you would like to sign up for Remind updates, check Miss Dotson's and Mrs. Stover's pages on Weebly.

Science:

Math: In 6th grade math students are finishing up Unit 1 over factors, multiples, decimals, fractions, and long division. Then, we'll be moving into Unit 2 that covers the concept of integers and the coordinate plane. In 6th grade advanced math, students are working through Unit 2 over concepts of integers and the coordinate plane. We'll finish unit 2 before the end of September and then move on to Algebraic concepts.

7th Grade News

Reading: Students will have their second checkpoint for Reading Counts on October 1st. They will be expected to earn 20 RC points. If students are in an advanced reading course, they will need 25 points. Please ensure students are reading each night to meet this goal. In class, students will begin reading the novel *Homeless Bird*. Vocabulary and questions will be provided to correspond with the reading ensuring student comprehension. Also, students will need to practice vocabulary words that are placed on Google Classroom and Quizlet.

Math: In 7th grade math we are just beginning Unit 2 on Expressions and Equations. Students are beginning to solve basic equations and simplifying expressions. It is important that your child has a good understanding of integer operations by this point. We have a program called USA test prep where students can log in and complete practice problems for extra practice. They should have their log in information in their agenda. The website is <https://www.usatestprep.com/>. We also upload notes, assignments, and sometimes helpful videos in google classroom that students have access to. Please encourage your child to be working on their weekly "spiraling" homework and their regular classroom homework as well.

Language Arts: What better way to begin a school year than by sharing memories and

stories? We have enjoyed reading about favorite vacations, death-defying stunts, and other memorable moments in our students' lives as they practiced narrative writing for our first assignment. We then asked students to consider dreams and aspirations for a "bucket list" essay, an opportunity not only to practice writing informatively but also to become even better acquainted. Our next essay will be a cross generational essay, where students will compare their lives to that of an older relative or friend. Our "thank you" goes out to all the parents helping to make these special interviews possible!

Science: 7th grade science will be wrapping up their study on cells and cell structures in the next couple of weeks. The next unit of study will include aspects such as: how things move into and out of cells, genetics, and inheritance, how living things change over time. Some of the activities that we have done and will do include: learning the parts of a microscope, using the microscope to view animal and plant cells, classifying seeds using binomial nomenclature, life science scavenger hunt, making a wet mount slide, learning how to use a dichotomous key, going outside and using a dichotomous key to identify

trees, learning to use a Punnett square to determine probability of outcomes, computer lab Nearpod activities, and independent research using the classroom I-pads. After this study concludes, we will be moving into the organs of the human body.

Social Studies: We are off to a great school year, and it is wonderful to see the students back in class! In Social Studies students were issued new textbooks and workbooks this year, which will allow parents and children the opportunity to read and learn together about faraway places! The locations covered this year include Southern and Eastern Asia, Southwest Asia (Middle East), and Africa. The curriculum will focus on four main strands of knowledge which include Geography, Government, Economics, and History. Varied instructional approaches will be incorporated to help students become independent learners. Some examples include creating an original project, researching topics using the library, and technology-based learning to name a few. Computer literacy is a key element in a student's suc-

8th Grade News

Science: During the first nine weeks of science, we will study principles of energy and matter as well as the structure and properties of matter. We have already learned states of matter and categorizing matter by its physical and chemical attributes. Our next focus will be learning to utilize the Periodic Table of Elements to predict the composition and properties of elements and compounds. The state standards for the physical science curriculum can be found at www.georgiastandards.org.

Math: A new monthly calendar for September has been given to each student. Please continue to check both the calendar and agenda for information on class assignments, homework, and tests. Students are in the process of completing a unit on lines and angles. Students will then begin covering a unit on exponents and scientific notation. In addition, we are collecting box tops and the points earned by this project are used to buy supplies for our classroom.

ses are currently studying the Holocaust and reading the play "The Diary of Anne Frank." Soon we will begin viewing "The Book Thief" and comparing and contrasting the protagonist to Anne Frank. Later in the month of September the classes will begin reading the modern classic *The Giver* by Lois Lowry and reading *nonfiction selections associated with the book on NEWSELA*. Due date for *Independent Reading novels (points or pages)* will be October 2nd.

Language Arts: We will continue to work on vocabulary instruction using Google Classroom. Students will be tested on a new list of vocabulary words every two weeks. We started the year focusing on narrative writing, and we will continue to do so for the rest of the nine weeks. In addition to narrative writing and vocabulary, students will continue to use Moby Max for grammar review and instruction.

Social Studies: We have just finished our first unit over Georgia's geography and the early natives in Ga. We are now be focusing on the colony of Georgia, with an emphasis on the father and founder of Georgia, James Edward Oglethorpe. We will also be discussing how the colony of Georgia transformed from a trustee colony to a royal colony. From there we will discuss the events that led to the American Revolution.

Reading: Eighth grade reading clas-

Connections News

Business and Computer Science: 6th Graders have just finished with their study of basic keyboarding skills. They are beginning a study of Cyber Safety and Internet Safety along with multimedia presentation skills.

7th Graders have been working on their unit on basic word processing where they are learning how to format and type short reports. They also have researched and produced presentations about careers using the Occupational Outlook Handbook Online. They will begin a unit on entrepreneurship shortly.

8th Grade is busily working on their Introduction to Digital Technology class as well as the Business and Computer Science III class. Digital Tech is a high school credit class. This class has just finished with a project on emerging technologies and is working on Digital Citizenship. Business and Computer Science III has finished with entrepreneurship and is working on economics.

STEM: STEM is off and running to a successful start. In 6th and 7th grade we have been working with the Humane Society to build exercise equipment and adjustable water bowls for the animals. Students are working hard and excited to complete this project. In 8th grade, students have been working on security prototypes for doors. Next, we will be working on building a telegraph while making connections in social studies and physical science.

movements. Everyone has completed their pre-test of 1/4 of a mile. This is a graded test based off of fitness gram standards. The post test will be in the last 10 days of the 9 weeks, as well as the fitness gram. Every student is required to do the fitness gram one time per year.

Band:

PE: Things are going great in P.E. We are in full swing of learning the different functional

FALL SOCIAL!!



We will have our Fall Social on Friday, October 12th from 3:15-5:00. Admission will be \$3.00 per student. School dress code and school rules will apply. Concession stand will be open. Only Fannin County Middle School students may attend. Parents or someone from your student's pick up list must come in the building to pick up students no later than 5:30.

EXCITING NEWS!

On September 7th, five recipients for the REACH Georgia Scholarship were named for the 2018-19 school year: Dadrian Flowers, Khia Hatcher, Corbin Kendall, Emily Salas, and Bryan Stiles.

REACH Scholars and their parents or guardians in school systems across Georgia will be signing contracts, committing to satisfying the program requirements, graduating from high school and enrolling and completing college.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

The Snack in a Backpack Program continues to be offered for the 2018/2019 school year. The Snack in a Backpack program provides a weekend supply of nutritious food for children in need to replace the school meals that children miss on the weekends. Volunteers maintain this program and it is free of charge. All food is non-perishable excluding fresh fruit when available. If you would like your child to participate in this program, please contact Tami Summers, FCMS Guidance Counselor at 706 632-6100.

During the month of September your child will receive Anti-Bullying Guidance in their classrooms from Mrs. Summers. During this guidance we will investigate the characteristics of bullying, the difference between boys and girls bullying, types of bullying, and characteristics of the victim and bully. Please contact Tami Summers, Guidance Counselor if you have any questions.

PBIS NEWS

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a proactive and interactive approach to establish a social culture in a school that supports social, emotional, and academic success. It uses data-based decision making to align curriculum and behavioral supports for students and staff. It is aimed at supporting safe and effective school environments while preventing behavior problems with students. PBIS is a three-tiered systems approach for establishing a positive learning culture and individualized behavior supports needed for schools to be effective learning environments for all students. The behavior expectations are taught, modeled, acknowledged, monitored, and then retaught as necessary. The goal is to provide practice and reinforcement at the Universal level for ALL students so that fewer students need intervention at the Tier 2 level where a more individualized plan with intensive individual interventions is used. A continuous analysis of data, the systems, and the outcomes guides all decision making.

PBIS Incentives and Rewards

PBIS Sno Cone and Popcorn events

Various drawings using Rebel Passes: free tickets to athletic events, school dances, and fieldtrips

PBIS Reward Days

PBIS Fieldtrips

Gift card drawings for no point loss on tracking forms

FCMS IS LOOKING FOR VETERANS!!!



FCMS would like to honor as many veterans as possible at our Veteran's Program on November 14th at 1:00 p.m. If you know a veteran in our area please provide us with the following information so that we may send them a personal invitation. Remember all parents are welcome and encouraged to attend this ceremony.

VETERAN'S NAME: _____

BRANCH OF SERVICE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

* If you do not know the address, please provide us with as much information as possible.