

# THE EXPLORATORY TEAM GAZETTE

## **Team Members**

**Art - Christina Lutjen**

**Computer Applications - Cynthia Sabia**

**French Language - Lisa Urso**

**Spanish Language -**

**Library - Beth Pronovost**

**Life Management - Joan Klein**

**Music - Laura Traver**

**Physical Education/Health - Tim Tredwell, Wendy Waterbury**

**Technology Education - Philip Unghire**



## **Art**

### **7th Grade Exploratory Classes:**

Students are completing their ceramic projects. While waiting for the clay to dry, students created radial designs based on the work of artist, Kristin Farr. Our final project will be a Pop art inspired self-portrait. Thank you for a fun & creative semester!

### **8th Grade Elective Classes:**

Students are completing their ceramic projects. While waiting for the clay to dry, we began our silkscreen/printmaking unit. For their final project, students may choose to work in watercolor, create a free standing sculpture, or create a series of drypoint prints. Thank you for a fun, creative semester and best wishes as you continue your artistic journey in high school and beyond!

***Remember to come to the art room before school ends to pick up all artwork!***

***"Some people only dream of meeting their favorite artists.***

***I teach mine."***

## **Computers**

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Exploratory Class**

The 7th grade students are currently working on their final Google Slides presentation. Building presentations is a skill they will be required to use throughout their educational career and beyond. We focus on the technical aspects of Google Slides including effective visuals, graphics and text, animations and video. We also break down the components of an effective oral presentation. They are excited to be presenting a topic of their choice.

### **8th Grade Elective Class**

The 8th grade students are currently finishing their digital portfolio websites. We have been using Dreamweaver CS6 to create the pages from scratch, no templates. They have had to make many decisions about organization, color, layout and what content they want to display on their sites. They have been using all three programs, Dreamweaver, Flash and Photoshop and their knowledge of good web design and copyright law to create new content and prepare their completed projects for their website. This project has tested their depth of knowledge, as well as, push their critical thinking and creative problem solving skills.

## **Health Exploratory/Physical Education**

### **7th grade Exploratory Health Class**

Mrs. Waterbury's is finishing the year w/ a unit on adolescent growth and development which will lead us into lessons dealing w/ grooming and hygiene. Topics to be covered include acne, perspiration/body odor, dental care, posture and scoliosis, and protecting our skin from the sun.



Mr. Tredwell's class will wrap up the year with a First Aid unit. All students will study various injuries as well as ways to treat them.

## **Physical Education**

All PE students have completed their spring fitness testing. Now we will hope for good weather to be able to spend the rest of the year outside w/ various games and activities.

## **Library**

7th grade Music is wrapping up their time in the library with the influential musicians project as they present their digital posters. Health classes spent time researching for



their drug project and creating Google Slide presentations. As we move towards the end of the school year the library is busy collecting the remainder of circulating books so we have everything (except summer reading books) back on the shelves and ready to go for next school year. This school year showed almost 13% increase in book circulation over last year--hope to keep the momentum going as 7th graders come in to check out books to read over the summer!



## **Life Management**

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Exploratory Class**

We are putting basic math and science knowledge to good use in the kitchens and preparing a variety of recipes that reinforce the wellness and health principles the students have acquired through this course and Health Exploratory. Additionally, time in the kitchens provides a chance for students to demonstrate teamwork as they work in their small groups to prepare food. I hope some new friendships develop as well as an interest in preparing food at home where they can be in charge of healthy ingredients.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Elective Class**

We are ending this course by continuing to prepare recipes that students might make at home as a basic start to independence. Our final project will be focusing of the presentation of food as we all know that “we eat with our eyes first”.

## **Music Exploratory**



Exploratory Music classes have completed their “Influential Musicians of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century” project on a website and iPad app called Glogster. Students researched a musician or band that has been influential in the music world. With the help of Miss Pronovost, they learned valuable research skills, for both print and non-print sources. Students compiled all of this information into a digital poster called a “Glog”. They used this to present their musician to the class, so we could all learn about the

different musicians that have had an impact on the music we listen to today. Students also used this project to work on presentation skills that will carry over into other classes.

Our last unit of the year will focus on the blues genre. We will study the history of it and how blues songs are composed. This will culminate in students writing a blues song of their own!

## **Jazz Ensemble**

Congratulations on an outstanding performance at the spring concert! And a special thank you to Campbell Toth for being our featured “Killer On the Keys” soloist! Jazz Band students may sleep in for the remainder of the school year. I would like to wish the 8<sup>th</sup> graders well as they move on to music in high school and look forward to an exciting year with the 7<sup>th</sup> (soon-to-be 8<sup>th</sup>!) graders. Auditions for next year will occur in late September/early October.



## **Band (7th & 8th)**

Congratulations on a wonderful performance! 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade bands should be very proud of their hard work and successful performance at the spring concert. We are currently reflecting on our performance, through class discussion and written assessments. We performed our Armed Forces medley at the JW Memorial Day ceremony and marched at the Essex Memorial Day Parade. Everyone did a great job and was very respectful, as we remembered those who have sacrificed so much for our country.

## **Chorus (7th & 8th)**

What a stellar performance! 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade choruses should be very proud of their expressive performance at the spring concert. We are currently reflecting on our performance, through class discussion and written assessments. We are also brushing up on our solfege/sight-reading skills, including assessments on IPA vowels and rhythmic reading. Both choruses sang the national anthem at the JW Memorial Day ceremony. Eighth graders are also diligently preparing their “graduation” song for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Night.



## **Technology Education**

### **7th Grade Exploratory**

We are working hard learning how to create 2 dimensional drawings using CAD. In class students are using the CAD program



called KeyCreator. Students are learning how to create entities, edit entities and print drawings. Students are learning about views and how to change views within the program.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Elective:

Students have learned about bridges and how they work. They have worked in teams to design and build their own truss style bridge. We are destructive testing their bridge to see how much mass their bridge could hold compared to its own mass.

In June we are lucky to again have Whelen Engineering coming back to work with our students. Whelen Engineering personnel come and demonstrate how manufacturing is an important part of our society. Representatives will introduce what it is like to be an electronics manufacturing company. They will show our students when Whelen started out as a company, what they make, and safety within their plant. We will then make a project together. Students will make a flashing light that they can take home. Students learn how to populate a circuit board and then solder the parts to the board. You may need to keep a supply of 9 volt batteries on hand because students tend to use their project a lot once it is complete. After students complete their personal project, they will assemble a DOT3® Super LED® Systems 103 light. The light they build will be used somewhere in the world. We culminate our time together with a tour of the Whelen Engineering facilities on June the 15th. Please keep an eye out for permission slips coming to you around June the 4th.

## World Languages

### French

#### 7th Grade Elective Classes:

Seventh grade French students are currently learning about the members of the family. They are learning how to identify members of their immediate and extended families, as well as where they live, and what they are like. They will soon learn about other cultural practices pertaining to family life, such as wedding ceremonies and where people spend their vacations.

#### 8th Grade Classes:

On voyage en train! Last month, 8th graders learned about traveling in airplanes. This month, we're taking our traveling on the road--or rather, the train track. The train is one of the most popular methods of traveling not just in France, but throughout Europe. We'll soon combine our knowledge of traveling by air with traveling on the rails through creating a project combining trips both by air and by land!



### Spanish

#### 7th grade classes:

Seventh grade Spanish students are currently talking about their family members. They are learning how to identify the members of the family tree by learning about the royal family of Spain. Not

many people realize that Spain still has an active monarchy! In addition to learning about this, students will talk about different types of housing in various Spanish-speaking countries. They will take their knowledge and create a house that they are going to sell to the class themselves!

### **8th grade classes**

¡Viajamos en avión! Eighth grade students are about to embark on a voyage to the airport! They will learn how to check in for a flight (with emphasis on international travel), talk about what occurs during a flight, and then discuss the post-flight routine. They will start this unit the week before the April vacation, and continue for the rest of the month. We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Elizabeth Read, who will be assisting us as a long-term sub for the rest of the school year.

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