



**HERITAGE
E-STEM
MAGNET**

Heritage Update

November, 2011

Notes from the Principal

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving break. In the blink of an eye, we are into December and there are a lot of things going on at Heritage.

It is really important that you are signed up for School view. This allows you to see your students' grades, and any missing assignments. It is also a great conversation piece that allows you to find out what a particular assignment was about and what was learned. You can sign up by either coming into the main office, calling the main office, or emailing. It is simple, quick, and informational.

Report cards for Fall Quarter are all on-line. We will continue to send report cards and mid-quarter reports on-line so you can get those quickly. It also saves our school a lot of money on postage which we use to do other things for our students throughout the school year.

I would like to thank everyone who participated in our Fall fundraiser. Our Butterbraid sales were successful and hopefully provided your family with a tasty treat! The money we raised will continue to defray costs of field trips and other school events. The next fundraiser will be our Cookie dough sale coming up in January. Cookies are delicious!

Our 7th graders will be going to Wolf Ridge in Northern Minnesota in January. Parent meetings are mandatory, and coming up on January 13 & 15. These meetings will provide you with information about the trip, times of pick up and arrival, as well as some helpful packing hints that will allow your student to have a great educational outdoor experience. If you are interested in chaperoning the trip, please call the main office.

As we begin the technology evolution in education, there are a lot of unexplored issues or problems that can occur. We welcome your suggestions and take each very seriously. The iPads are tools for students to use, but they also come with rules for which they use them. Set up a plan for your students at home. We are teaching our students how to be responsible with their iPads at school and it continues when they leave. If you have a concern about a particular app please call the school so we can research it, and get back to you. Above all, set up a technology plan at home. Make it simple and enforce it.

Have a safe and Happy Holiday season.

Upcoming Events

December 2011

- 12/6: Parent Tech Night 6:30 - 8:00PM
- 12/9: Mittens, Muffins & Music 7:45 - 8:30AM
- 12/13: Wolf Ridge Mandatory Parent Meeting 3:30PM
- 12/15: Wolf Ridge Mandatory Parent Meeting 2:00 & 6:30
- 12/22-12/31: No School- Winter Break

January 2012

- 1/3: School resumes
- 1/6: District Open House 5:00 - 7:30PM
- 1/11-1/13: 7th grade at Wolf Ridge
- 1/12: Incoming Middle School Info Night
- 1/16: No School- Martin Luther King Day
- 1/17: Vocal Music Concert 7:00PM
- 1/18: E-STEM Advisory Meeting 6:30PM
- 1/19: Instrumental Music Concert 7:00PM
- 1/24: Cookie Dough Sale Begins
- 1/26: Family Pool/ Beach Party 6:30 - 8:00PM
- 1/27: No School - End of Quarter
- 1/30 - 2/3: Scholastic Book Fair
- 1/31: Conferences 3:30 - 8:30PM

School hours are 8:35AM - 3:10PM

Doors to the school open at 8:15AM -- please plan accordingly!

Parent Tech Night

All parents are invited and encouraged to come to our Parent iPad Workshop at Heritage on Tuesday evening, December 6th, from 6:30 - 8:00pm. At this workshop, parents will be using their student's iPad to create a short movie using iMovie App, discover Google Earth, and learn general iPad tips and tricks. We will also discuss Internet safety and cyber-bullying concerns, both at home and at school. Check out updates and suggest ideas at <http://bit.ly/heritageipad> or call Eric Simmons with any questions at [651.403.7503](tel:651.403.7503).

Attendance Office

Please call us when your student will not be attending school, will be late to school or needs to leave the building for any reason. Please send a note ahead of time in order to minimize disruption to class and to alert teachers to student absences.

Our phone number is (651) 403-7407. Our office is located across the hall from the Nurse's Office.

SPANISH UPDATE

¡Hola! First quarter of Spanish went very well. Students learned the basics such as colors, numbers, the alphabet, school supplies, and basic get-to-know-you type questions and answers. We took a time out from grammar to celebrate el día de los muertos with a little chocolate and fiesta.

I am very excited that we will debut Rosetta Stone second quarter! It appears that most students now

have it on the iPads and the accounts are set. More information will be on the Spanish website once we have given it a try. As always, please email me Katie.Bernardy@isd197.org if you have any questions or concerns and I will respond as quickly as possible. If you prefer contact via phone, please use this phone number: 651.403.7913. ¡Gracias!

Lower Yellow House Update

During first quarter, our students enjoyed a number of exciting events. The highlight was definitely when Mr. Jenness swam with the sharks at SeaLife MN in the Mall of America. We'd like to thank the number of Lower Yellow house students who attended our Heritage night there.

Next, our students enjoyed a show by Latin Jazz singer, Magos Herrera at the Ordway. Students dressed up for the occasion and also practiced appropriate theatre etiquette.

Counselor's Corner

The eighth graders have finished the EXPLORE test and we expect the results in early January, if not sooner. We hope to use these results when we register our students for ninth grade. That process will start in late January and early February.

All of our students begin their new Creative Arts Block (CAB) classes on November 14th. Be sure to ask your student what new class they have and who their new teacher is. This quarter extends to January 27, 2011.

As the Heritage community continues designing 21st Century curriculum we are urged on by findings such as recent reports including "Common Sense Media's ["Zero to Eight: Children's Media Use in America"](#)—revealing that today's children consume up to 7 hours of media daily". Together staff and

students are learning how to use this time and the technology that allows this, to enhance learning. We are also learning how to teach the safe and correct use of these powerful new technologies. Our iPad U class addresses this directly and every student takes this class each year. Local authorities help teach safety. Teachers and students use Schoology software to keep all their information and classwork private. Schoology enables the students and teachers to exchange academic information, such as homework, projects and class notes so students can review classwork and lookup homework. They can ask questions, take quizzes and tests and get immediate feedback on their test results.

This is a fast moving, challenging, and exciting time to be in school!

Academically, 7th grade students completed their Utopian society project, completed a Taxonomy project in science and have been visiting the prairie for a year-long project and spending time with our Naturalist.

Coming up in 2nd quarter, we're planning to take Lower Yellow students ice skating at the, "Oval."

If you're interested in attending Wolf Ridge Environmental Center, we're looking for some parent volunteer. Please let any of us know if you're interested.

PTA has begun its first annual Battle of the Books. We're excited that so many students are interested in participating! If you haven't signed up yet but would like to participate, sign up in the office. If you'd like to battle, but haven't found a team yet, please check in with your language arts teacher and she will help to find you a team!

E-STEM Magnet Minutes

Did you notice our new E-STEM logos in our parking lot and around our building? This fall our new logo was placed around our building to reflect our E-STEM magnet theme. As you walk around Heritage you'll notice wall sized posters with engineering terminology used to reflect the learning going on throughout our building. Keep an eye on the link walkway and cafeteria throughout the winter months. More logo displays are on the way! Be sure to check out our sign on the side of our building facing Butler Avenue. A big thank you to our parent volunteers and St. Martin Landscape who worked this summer and fall to clear our outdoor courtyard. If you are interested in helping to design our courtyard please contact the magnet office. Mark your calendar for the following dates:

12/6: Parent Technology Night

12/13: Wolf Ridge Mandatory Parent Meetings 3:30 (attend ONE)

12/15: Wolf Ridge Mandatory Parent Meetings 2:00 and 6:30

1/11-1/13: 7th Graders at Wolf Ridge Environmental Center

1/18: E-STEM Advisory Meeting

Upper Maroon Update

5th Grade

- We have completed our 3rd trip to Dodge. This time, students collected various seeds to test in the classroom with our naturalist on Tuesday. We are comparing model seeds (paper copies) with actual seeds and graphing the time it takes for them to hit the ground when dropped.
- The kids have been working with our naturalist, Pam, on observations and have been able to observe a variety of live animals from tarantulas to Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches to salamanders and toads.
- In Math, the kids have just finished amazing tessellation projects as part of a geometry unit.

6th Grade

- In science, students are working on kinetic energy, heat transfer, melting and dissolving in their labs.
- EcoLab has been in once to meet with all 6th graders and will be back again on Dec. 6. The kids really enjoyed the lab with these scientists.
- In math, students have just finished a unit on integers and will now turn their attention to rational numbers. Please

encourage your child to use the Math apps. on their iPad at home.

- Students have just finished writing valid opinions and have finished a unit on the rain forest. Don't forget to read each night!
- Parents, don't forget to ask your child to show you his or her PSA (Public Service Announcement) they made in iPad U if you have not seen it yet. We saw some really great ones come through the door!

Congratulations to our PAW Winners from Quarter 1. We honor students on a weekly basis for exceptional work and/or behavior.

Congratulations to our first quarter kids! Keep up the great work!

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|---------------------|--------------------------|
| • Terrance Castillo | • Natalie Nachtsheim |
| • Corbin Johanson | • David Timm |
| • Michel Magana | • Ben Anderson |
| • Andrew Nguyen | • Abi Arganbright |
| • Nassiah Pickens | • Alanna Espinoza |
| • Katy vanNatta | • Jorge Hernandez |
| • Vinny Guerrino | • Aidan McNally |
| • Ben Hallonquist | • Anja Wood |
| • Erin Kropelnicki | • Adam Arroyo |
| • Luke Lasley | • Ernesto Espino-Sanchez |
| • Amanda McGinnis | • Isaiah Flores |
| • Lauren Sheperd | • Brittney Jones |
| • Tatum Elumba | |
| • Tucker Kaup | |
| • Anna Klein | |

Vocal Music Update

Heritage Harmony

Congratulations to Heritage Harmony (our extra-curricular show choir) for being selected to perform at the upcoming Minnesota Middle School Conference. The singers will perform several of their songs as teachers and administrators arrive for their conference and they will also be performing a number with the keynote speaker for the conference.

Harmony will provide holiday music on 12/9 for Muffins, Mittens and Music and on 12/17 at the Mall of America and will also be visiting one of our local senior citizen organizations to sing before the holiday break. Check the Harmony page on the school website (follow the

link to Music) for more specific information.

Heritage Choirs

The choirs are starting to gear up for their January performances. They have been learning to sight read notes, learning to read two and four part scores and practicing singing techniques that will sustain them for a lifetime of singing. We are also relating the process of learning and performing a composition to the engineering process that students have been working with in other academic classes. Be sure and check the school calendar for all upcoming music performances.

List Serve

We are continuing our goal of moving toward a paperless school. All newsletters will be available electronically. Click on the link below to join our email list. It's easy and take less than two minutes!

[Join Email List](#)

Upper Yellow Update

Our fifth graders are preparing for our next monthly trip to Dodge Nature Center. We are continuing our exploration of the pond ecosystem and checking out the changes in our trees. It is important that students are dressed for the weather. This includes a winter coat, hats, gloves/mittens and next month students will need boots and snow pants. If you are in need of any of these items, please contact your homeroom teacher.

As part of our flex time activities we've been reading *A Wrinkle in Time* in preparation for our Children's Theater Trip to see the play. We are looking forward to a wonderful theater experience Friday, November 18th.

In support of our 6th grade physical science curriculum Ecolab is visiting our classrooms a couple times this year. Their chemists are engaging students in hands-on inquiry activities. The first one of the year revolved around acids and bases. Students explored common everyday substances and their acidic or basic properties.

Sixth grade students are presently reading the novel, *Crash*, in their Language Arts class. This book explores the themes of bullying, family relationships, and gender stereotyping.

In Social Studies class the 6th graders are studying the rise and fall of the Egyptian empires. The unit will culminate with the creation of a mummy.

The tulip gardens have been planted. Before they went in the ground for their winter hibernation and germination, the student's made various observations and measurements to graph about the tulip bulbs. The student's will be creating a journal on their iPads for future observations we make in the Spring.

Please remember for future Dodge visits it will be necessary to have warm jackets, gloves or mittens, hats, snow boots, and snow pants. We want out students to have a fun and safe experience.

PLTW Update

In technology education we completed our first time through Project Lead the Way's (PLTW) "Automation and Robotics Unit" Overall, the students intrigued by the field of robotics. They built their robots in teams and then created a program to tell their robots what to do. Beginning second quarter, 8th graders will be going through the new unit of "Energy and the Environment" with PLTW. This is going to be a rigorous research and hands-on experience for the students. They will be investigating the importance of energy in our lives and the impact that using energy has on the environment. We are going to be looking at the problems from an engineering perspective, which involves not just pointing out the problems, but also creating solutions using the engineering design process. Additionally, we will team up with some of the science teachers in the building to design and build custom cages for all the animals and reptiles that we have here. They will be using the 3D CAD system "Inventor" to create these and then build them in our new shop area. Its going to be a great and exciting quarter. "Engineering Changes the World."

Wolf Ridge Parent Opportunity

Attention parents of 7th grade students!
We're looking for parent volunteers to join our trip to Wolf Ridge environmental center in Northern Minnesota. If you're interested, please contact Amanda Anderson in the Magnet Office: 403-7535

FREE PARENTING WORKSHOP

A free parenting workshop is being offered on January 10 at Mendota Elementary School from 6:30-8:00pm: Corwin Kronenberg, a local parenting expert will present techniques for teaching children to be responsible. His presentation will include:

- Disciplining With Unconditional Love -- The Foundation Of Responsibility
- Making Rules And Delivering Consequences - That Teach Responsibility
- Implementing Restorative Consequences - The Key To Responsibility
- Dealing With Behavior Con Games - The Child's Attempt To Avoid Responsibility
- Holding Children Responsible - A Process For Teaching Responsibility

Splash trip to Florida

The SPLASH Deadline has been extended to December 6. We currently have 3 students signed up but need a few more to make it a go! The trip is in June 2012. Students will learn about Florida's ecosystems through adventure travel. They will be able to snorkel in reefs, kayak in mangroves, observe wildlife in the Everglades, and rehabilitate sea turtles in an

animal hospital. Students will also have an opportunity to swim with dolphins! Trip information is on the Heritage website under activities. The trip is through a trusted and reliable student travel service called Worldstrides. Please register with Worldstrides by December 6!