

Mr. P's Note Home!

Volume 7 Issue 3

September 1, 2009

WEEKLY READER...

Our class will be using Weekly Reader News: Senior Edition this year in class. The subscription for each student is \$4.00. Mr. P had to personally purchase the subscriptions before school began. Donations of \$4.00 cash to cover the subscription will be appreciated! Thanks to those who have already sent in \$4.00!

ACADEMIC UPDATE...



- 1). In social studies, we are studying Tennessee geography. We will have a quiz on Wednesday.
- 2). In science we are learning about scientific method. Each team is bringing aluminum foil for an activity on Wednesday.
- 3). Our study of estimation will continue in math tomorrow with an activity involving those delicious Skittles. Each student also need a ruler in class.

WEBSITE PROBLEMS CONTINUE...

Since Metro blocked the port that allows our school web pages to be viewed from outside the building there has been no access to the daily HOMEWORK webpage. Although Mr. P owns the main website, flyparsons.com, the web pages that contain the homework page and tech task are on the server at school. Mr. P has purchased new server space at another web hosting site. We are awaiting the transfer process to be completed. Hopefully everything will all be back to normal next week. In the meantime, please rely on the agenda book, and posts on Twitter to get the latest info on assignments. Log on to: twitter.com/meigsmagnet.

TUESDAYS...

Students receive graded papers in the Red Tuesday Folder every Tuesday. All papers do go home on Tuesdays. If for any reason they do not arrive, let Mr. P know. Students may correct any and all assignments and assessments for some of the credit (points) back. Those corrections are to be stapled to the Tuesday Folder Signature Sheet. Mr. P then re-grades the corrections and put the points earned in a category on gradespeed labeled extra credit. The original grade does remain, while the points earned by making corrections are cumulated in that extra credit category. As mentioned, student grades are on-line at <https://gradespeed.mnps.org>. Parents and students have a password to check each subject in order to view grades. This should be done each Tuesday and recorded on the Tuesday Folder Signature Sheet.

MR. P'S CLASS WISH LIST...

Some of the materials that Mr. P needs for upcoming science and math activities are:

- Small votive candles
- Vinegar
- Baking soda
- Play dough
- Plastic cups & plastic bowls

TWITTER...

Parents have another way of staying connected to our class. Log on to www.twitter.com on your computer or cell phone and follow our class. Mr. P posts daily updates about what's happening at www.twitter.com/meigsmagnet

MR. P'S STUDENT OF THE WEEK...

• **AUGUST 31- SEPTEMBER 4, 2009**

Sawyer Brantley

Be sure to read about Sawyer on the electronic "Student of Week" board in Mr. Parsons' room and on the web in the password protected area soon.

Next week's student of the week. . . **Rob Clairday**

ITEMS TO BRING. . .

- Red Tuesday Folder Signature Chart...
- A single pack of Skittles for math & ruler (Due: 08.30.09)
- CORRECTED WORK...

DATES TO REMEMBER...

09.02.09 Begin Skittles Estimation...
09.03.09 School Picture Day at 9:40AM...
09.07.09 NO SCHOOL – LABOR DAY...
09.11.09 GENERAL STORE #2...

25PTS: SECRET WORD = • SEE THE WEBSITE...

FOR ADDITIONAL NEWS ITEMS & INFO CHECK:

<http://www.flyparsons.org/notehome.html>

ON THE WEBSITE ONLY:

EXTRA EXTRA EXTRA...

It pays to check the website, too...

This Week's SECRET WORD (Sep 1):

25PTS: SECRET WORD = "FIFTH GRADE"

TEAM SHIRTS COMING SOON...

As always, please watch the website to know which days our team will wear the shirts in the future! By the way, the next date to wear the t-shirts is next Friday, ????.



THE 100% CREW...

Each Monday, students with all assignments turned in and on time are eligible for the special 100% CREW. Students can check Mr. P's door to see if they have made the CREW each Monday. This info, as well as the special rewards to be given each week, can also be seen on the class website!

MR. P'S TECH TASK IS A DAILY RESPONSIBILITY

Beginning today, students will be using the class website each afternoon. Students will check the HW (homework) webpage each day and complete a TECH TASK. Questions each day on the TECH TASK will support learning that occurs in class and will serve as a way for Mr. P to formatively assess student understanding.

MR. P'S PROCEDURES...

Students, the following are reminders of specific classroom procedures:

- Push your chair in when you leave your desk.
- Have your agenda signed daily.
- Locker breaks are 7:45AM, and 2:45PM. Students should remember to take all materials from the locker at that time. Keep all materials in your locker until needed.
- 7:45AM morning work is posted on the television each morning as you arrive in the classroom. This is due at 8:15AM along with your daily tech task and all homework. Students, be sure to be prepared everyday and be on time with all of your assignments.

MORE OLD NEWS ON THE WEBSITE ONLY:

ESTIMATION/HOW MUCH IS A MILLION?

We are still exploring estimation this week by answering such probing questions as "How many Skittles are in the jar?" and "How many dogs are there in Nashville?" Hey, by the way, do YOU know how many dogs there are in Nashville? Our "How Much is a Million?" challenge continues as students plan to represent 1,000,000 dots on the wall. Students will also examine their understanding of exponential change with base 10.

MYGRADEBOOK.COM...

Grades are, as always, on line at mygradebook.com.

SECRET WORDS = SPECIAL REWARDS...

Kids, be sure to check the "HW" webpage for the secret word each day. This week a special reward will await those who follow through! Please don't forget!

MR. P'S PROCEDURES...

Students, please be reminded of these procedures to follow during the school day. Please help Mr. P by remembering them.

IN CASE YOU'VE MISSED THE SECRET WORD:

25PTS: SECRET WORD = •LOOK ABOVE TO SEE IT...

FOR MORE INFO CHECK:

<http://www.flyparsons.org/challengersweekly.html>.

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NOTES...

- All students will wear their class polo shirts this Wednesday, January 14.
- Hey kids, remember to send your Tech Task (Mondays – Thursday) via e-mail. Please send it to Mr. P [james.parsons@mnps.org]. Your tech task should be saved on your computer as a MICROSOFT OFFICE WORD DOCUMENT with your name and date in the title. Attach the document to an e-mail to send it to Mr. P. Don't forget to include your name and the date in the title of the e-mail. Doing this will save paper and get you a HOMEWORK PASS on Friday's Tech Task! Now isn't that a great deal?

PLEASE HELP! [BAD HABITS WITH LATE WORK]...

Please help! Due to the absorbent amount of homework work that is **not** being completed or turned in on time, late assignments will not be accepted on a regular basis any longer. Many students are making a habit of doing this multiple times each week! Those assignments should be completed, but a late grade will not be given without a student discussion with Mr. P. This discussion will need to include a conversation with the student's parents as to why this has become a pattern. **Please note, a student with a rare late assignment does not constitute a habitual problem.**

EXTRA CREDIT & MAKING CORRECTIONS...

Mr. P urges all students to take advantage of the generous extra credit opportunities that are available every afternoon on the homework webpage. Many students are asking for extra credit but aren't following through with the secret words that earn extra credit for simply looking at the homework page on our class website. Other extra credit chances are available in several subjects. Watch for those on the homework webpage as well. Another great tool to increase report card grades (and learn, too) is to make corrections on any and all graded assignments. This does include tests! Please remember Mr. P's procedure for making corrections!