

THE TUESDAY DISPATCH

The Tuesday Dispatch will be a bi-weekly newsletter about what is happening in the middle school classes. Each teacher will write about their curriculum, and what is being covered in the preceding and following week. We hope you will find it informative, and help you get a glimpse as to what material your children are covering.

6th Grade

**SAVE THE DATE!!
JANUARY 20, 2010 @ 6:45 PM
BAR & BAT MITZVAH PARENT-STUDENT WORKSHOP**

Math/Science – Mrs. McKeon

In math we completed the chapter on Data and Graphs. The students did an M&M's[®] activity where the M&M's[®] provided the data to find the mean, median, mode, range and create a bar graph. After they completed the assignment the students enjoyed eating the "data." This week in math we will be writing algebraic expressions and solving 1-step equations. Last week in science we covered photosynthesis, cellular respiration and fermentation. We also did a leaf activity and saw some pigments found in leaves. This week we will cover the cell cycle and DNA. We will also create a model of a DNA molecule.

Social Studies/ English – Mr. Schlank

English- Students are studying Greek Mythology. In addition to their reading and written assignments, they are creating board games in cooperative groups. This allows them to learn more about Greek Mythology, and display their creative and artistic abilities.

Social Studies- We are learning about the civilizations in Mesopotamia. Different aspects of those cultures that we study include government, religion, technology, and art.

Torah - Mrs. Gadon

We are learning *Shmot* Chapter 17.

Bnei Israel complains about the lack of water again. Moshe hits the rock as G-d said to him and water came out of it.

The people named the place Massah and Meribah.

Then at Refidim the Amalekites attack Israel.

Moshe appoints Joshua to be the war leader. Joshua wins the war with G-d's help.

Navi

We are having a test on Samuel chapter 2 on Wednesday, November 4.
We will learn chapter 3. G-d talks to Samuel for the first time.

Hebrew – Mrs. Meir

Current Events:

Last week the students read an article from the Hebrew language newspaper, *Yanshuf / Shaar*. They have been instructed to read and answer corresponding questions. The articles' newly introduced vocabulary provides a variety of conversational, reading and writing activities.

The students were tested on general comprehension and the new material.

Currently, we are continuing our work in Alpha Neta workbook 3 unit 11.

A listening quiz will take place on Friday, November 6th and a grammar and vocabulary quiz will be given on Friday, November 13th.

Hebrew – Mrs. Akerman – Class 6-2

We learned about the present tense and to describe things with "this" and "these". We learned interrogatives for "who," "what" and "where". We studied about different types of settlements in Israel: the kibbutz, the moshav, and the urban settlements. We learned about the Negev Desert and David Ben Gurion's connection to the Negev. This week, the students were tested on reading comprehension and grammar. As an ongoing project, the students are writing a personal diary that follows the guidelines of the Neta unit.

Hebrew – Mrs. Akerman – Class 6-3

The students are learning about the present tense. We reviewed the names in Hebrew of different school subjects and discussed a daily school schedule. On Thursday, November 5, the children will be taking a test on the present tense, masculine and feminine nouns, the format for asking questions. The test will also cover our discussions about school subjects. As an ongoing project, the children are writing their own personal diary.

Life Cycles/Rabbinics – Mr. Dalfen

We looked at the laws of *kashrut* in much deeper detail than I had planned, due to the many excellent questions asked by the students. We are going to look at *tefila* next, and compose some of our own.

Israel – Mrs. Hiltzik

Our class learned about Israel's national anthem, *HaTikvah*. We analyzed the meaning of the lyrics and we drew lines of connection to Jewish history and the history of Zionism. Our class has recently been studying the beginnings of the modern Zionist movement, so this exercise resonated very well with the students. The next chapter in this topic is studying the different *Aliyot*, the waves of immigrants to Palestine under the Ottoman Turks and then under the British Mandate.

Tefila – Mrs. Bernstein:

On Monday 11/2, 6th grade students were treated to a unique *tefila* experience as they were visited by singer and songwriter Julie Geller from Denver, Colorado. Julie led an experiential *tefila* which included teaching students a new melody for *Hinei MaTov U'manayim* and *Min Hamaytzar* (Psalm 118 from *Hallel*). Our special *tefila* ended with students learning about Jewish spirituality and having what some later said was their first private meditation (momentary private reflection). **Our thanks to Julie for fitting us in to her busy east coast touring schedule and our thanks to the SSDS PA for sponsoring this event. In addition to visiting the 6th grade, Julie also spent time with our 1st, 2nd, 5th and 9th graders.**

7th Grade

Math – Mr. Clarke



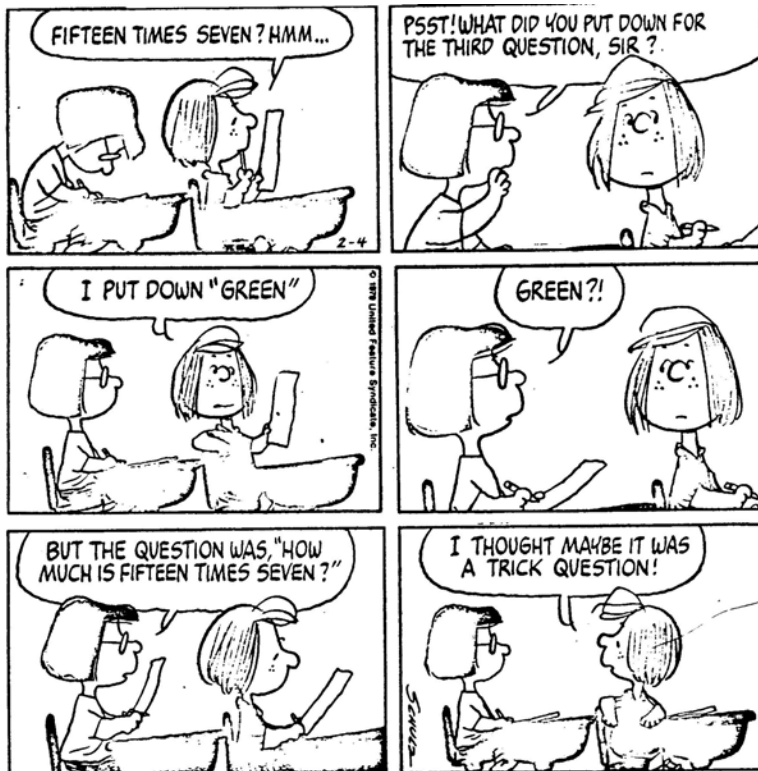
The 7th graders recently completed a test on Set Theory, and are now working from the Prentice Hall Pre-Algebra textbook. The class is currently working through Chapter One, and they are enjoying the material so far. **Extra resources are provided by the publishing company that includes extra practice material on each section/topic beginning on page 752, a skills handbook beginning on page 795, as well as [web resources](#).** Directions on how to use the web resources are on the first page after opening the book. Remember to check teachers' websites for homework, and upcoming assignments and tests.

Honors Math – Mrs. Nichomoff

Last week, the students took a unit test on translating English phrases, sentences, and real-life situations into algebraic language and solving problems by looking for patterns. I am pleased to say they have mastered the unit!

Our current endeavor is to learn the Distributive Property and its importance in helping us write and solve equations and inequalities. The students will also learn to represent the solution set of an open sentence on a number line. As in all units of math, there are many new vocabulary words to be learned. After all—Algebra is like learning a new language for the students!

The next test is scheduled for Monday, November 9th for class 7-4 and Tuesday November 10th for 7-1. It will cover Chapter 2.1 thru 2.6. I am confident the results will be as good if not better than the last test!!



English – Mrs. Liebman

There will be a quiz Wednesday on the short stories we have completed so far. It will include vocabulary and key terms taken from the literature. The students are getting excited about writing their own stories. We are looking at ways in which authors use historical events or conflicts in their own lives to get ideas for their writing. Recently,

they read an article entitled “The Story Behind the Story,” which showed the origin of Edgar Allan Poe’s story “The Cask of Amontillado.” We will read a few more stories and simultaneously begin writing our own.

Bible – Mrs. Taub

Torah: the students took the *Chagei Tishrei* test and did very well.

Navi: We continue wandering with David, who runs away from King *Shaul*, through the wilderness of the Judean desert. Last week we finished Chapter 19 in *Shmuel Alef*. David went to the prophet *Shmuel* to ask for protection. *Shaul* finds out and sends his men to capture David. They are unsuccessful as is *Shaul* who goes by himself.

G-d protects David one more time.

There is a Vocab. Quiz for our next chapter (20) on Thursday, November 5 for the 7-1 section. They did great on the last test for chapters 18-19.

The 7-2 section has a test on Wednesday, November 4 on Chapters 18 and 19.

Science – Mr. Cohen

We are continuing our study of matter by learning the phases matter can take. Matter can be in the form of a solid, liquid, or gas. Each phase or state has its own physical properties and characteristics. Solids have a definite shape and volume, liquids have a definite volume but take on the shape of its container, and a gas well you know gas - no definite volume or shape. There will be demonstrations on a liquid’s surface tension and its viscosity. Changes in state are our next topic. We will learn under what temperatures different substances will melt and freeze. We will perform experiments on vaporizing particles of a liquid that gain enough energy to form a gas. Condensation, vaporization, and evaporation will also be demonstrated. If I can get dry ice I will also demonstrate sublimation, changing a solid to a gas without going through the liquid phase

Spanish – Mrs. Gadon

Capitulo #1 The students are learning to describe themselves as well as a friend using the singular forms of the verb ser, soy, eres, es and descriptive adjectives. They are learning interrogative words like ¿quien? ¿que? ¿como? ¿de? ¿donde?

Social Studies – Mrs. Pitschi

We are on our way to colonizing the New World. The 7th grade has been investigating the accomplishments of the European explorers and their travels to this new and unknown world. After learning about the “mistake” Christopher Columbus made in thinking he had discovered a passage to the East Indies, we have seen how European explorers found riches in this land that will be known as the Americas.

Now we will turn our attention to the growth of this new home that is our land and focus on what brought the various groups to this foreign place. Our investigation will show us the variety of people that came to this new land looking for wealth and freedom

especially religious freedom. We will begin our quest with Jamestown and Massachusetts Bay (including Plymouth) and then look more closely at the formation of the New England, Middle and Southern colonies. This means the Revolution cannot be far away.

Hebrew – Mrs. Meir

We are continuing our work in Neta workbook 1, as well as reading non-fiction texts related to shape, color, and Jewish signs and symbols, such as the letters of the Hebrew alphabet and the *Magen David*.

Last week the students read an article from the Hebrew language newspaper. *Yanshuf / Shaar* about Israeli chemist, Ada Yonath, who was awarded the 2009 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, along with two other recipients. They have been instructed to read and answer the corresponding questions in their level. The article's newly introduced vocabulary provides a variety of conversational, reading and writing activities.

The students were tested on general comprehension and the new material.

A listening quiz will take place on Friday, November 6th and a grammar and vocabulary quiz will be given on Friday, November 13th.

Hebrew – Mrs. Akerman

This week was the *yahrzeit* of Yitzhak Rabin. We learned about his life and accomplishments. The students read a short article and practiced writing in a journalistic style. We are learning about concepts connected to friendship. We are writing about different types of personal communication.

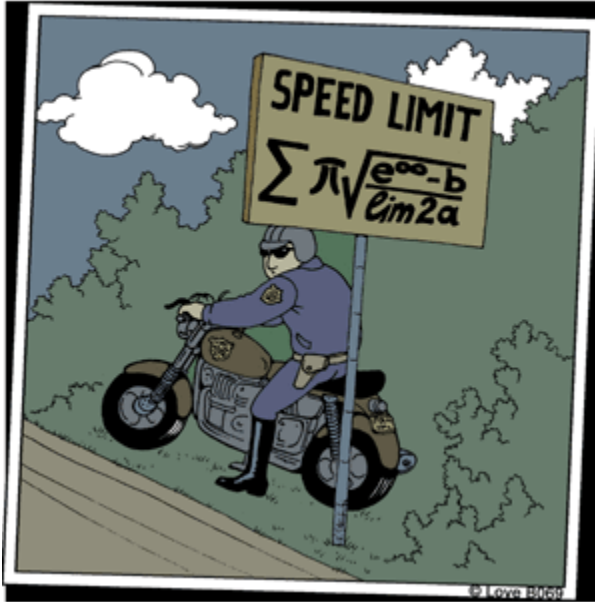
Hebrew – Mrs. Akerman

We learned about words connected to a visit to the doctor's office and different types of remedies. We practiced using the Hebrew concept of "have to" + infinitive.

8th Grade

Pre-Algebra – Mr. Clarke

Snapshots at jasonlove.com



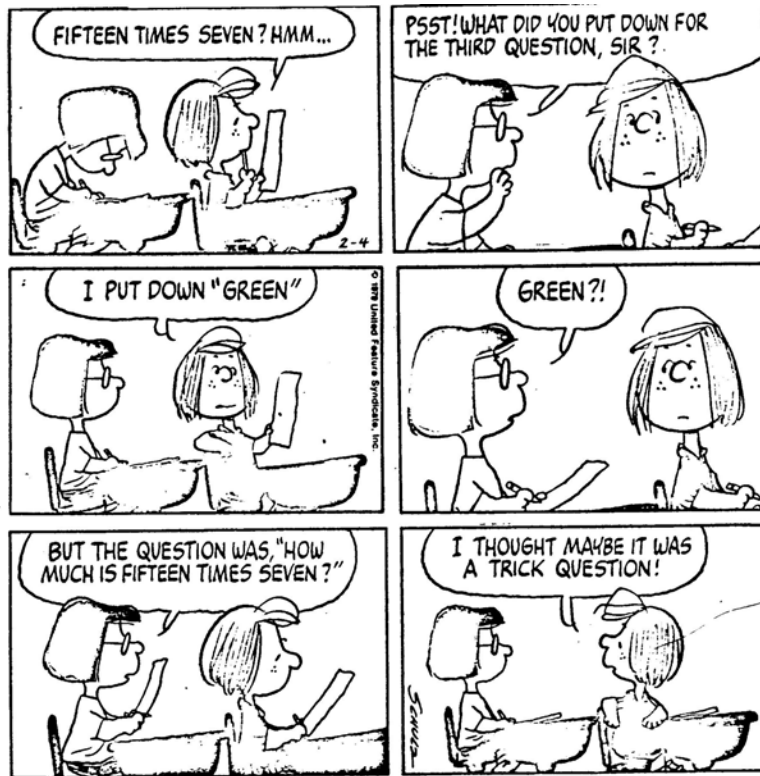
... and you never know when you might need "this stuff"

The 8th graders are currently working on solving equations using additive and multiplicative reciprocals, and will continue with more complex equations throughout the section. The students will also continue to work on their translating of algebraic language by writing situational algebraic equations. Remember to continue to check teachers' websites for homework, and upcoming assignments and tests.

Integrated Algebra – Mrs. Nichomoff

Last week the students had a test on translating verbal phrases into symbols, writing algebraic expressions in words, evaluating expressions, and solving small word problems. As in all units in math, there were many new vocabulary words to be learned. Learning Algebra is like learning a new language. It is difficult at first, but by constant practice and repetition, the pieces of the 'puzzle' will start to fit together and the whole picture will be revealed.

The students are currently working on Chapter 4 which involves solving first degree equations and inequalities and solving many different types of word problems. It will take time to master the word problems but it will happen!! There will be two tests given covering this chapter. The first test will contain sections 4.1 thru 4.6 and the second test will cover the whole chapter with an emphasis on the second part (4.7 thru 4.9).



Earth Science – Mr. Cohen

A rock is longer just a rock. For the past week and continuing for the next couple of weeks we will study the different types of rocks and how they form. Igneous rocks form from magma or lava. They are polymineralic, and have large intergrown crystals. Sedimentary rocks are either clastic or non-clastic (ask you child what this means). Metamorphic rocks are "changed over" rocks and we will learn who their parents are (parent rock that is). We've also completed nearly half of our required labs for the Regents. Amazing !

Bible – Mrs. Taub

Navi: Samuel 2 Chapter 5

The 12 Tribes of Israel recognized David as the new King of Israel. David conquers the city of Jerusalem and establishes it as the capital of his kingdom.

We did some small projects related to chapter 5.

The students wrote meaningful blessings and made wonderful presents to the king from the Tribes of Israel. The class of 8-1 did their presentations last week and 8-2 are presenting this week. Some of the blessings were good health; strength of heart for David; victory over his enemies; peace for his kingdom, etc. Some meaningful presents were a crown with 12 precious stones representing the 12

tribes; 613 olive trees to plant around Jerusalem; a Torah Scroll; a *shofar*; animals for offerings; shields; swords, and a judge's hammer.

This Friday, November 6, a timeline of Jerusalem is due. It will cover Jerusalem from the time of the patriarchs until present day.

Spanish - Señora Taub

We are shopping for school in chapter 3.

The students learned to identify school supplies; articles of clothing; describing clothes; identifying colors and some types of stores.

We had some quizzes and the students did great. ¡Viva el español!

Social Studies – Mrs. Pitschi

The North has won the Civil War and Abraham Lincoln has achieved his goal of keeping the Union together. Unfortunately it will cost him his life. We have finished the war and as expected the South will have to face the fact that their life is going to change. It is now time to put the pieces of the Union back together with the period known as Reconstruction. During this time we will see how the struggle to rebuild the Union after the devastation of the Civil War will lay the foundation of problems that will plague this nation to the present day. We will look at the different plans that were proposed and assess how this period could have been very different had it not been for the assassination of President Lincoln. This is the beginning of a tremendous period of change for the United States. Watch how we grow.

English – Mrs. Liebman

There will be an exam Wednesday which will cover the material from the story logs.

This includes authors and titles of all short stories, as well as literary elements and vocabulary. The exam will be followed by a creative writing unit which will begin with drills to generate short story ideas and develop setting and characters. The students are anxiously anticipating the opportunity to share their creative abilities and can't wait to get started on this exciting project.

Hebrew – Mrs. Meir (530H-1)

We are continuing our work in Neta workbook 6, *Hayinu K'Cholmim (We Were Like Dreamers)*. The booklet is about dreams in our lives and the grammatical subject is past tense verbs.

Last week the students read an article from the Hebrew language newspaper. *Yanshuf / Shaar* about Israeli chemist, Ada Yonath, who was awarded the 2009 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, along with two other recipients. In addition, students read about Yitzchak Rabin. They have been instructed to read and answer the corresponding questions in their level. The article's newly introduced vocabulary provides a variety of conversational, reading and writing activities.

A listening quiz will take place on Thursday, November 5th and a grammar and vocabulary quiz will be given on Tuesday, November 17th.

Hebrew – Mrs. Meir (530-3)

We are continuing our work in Neta workbook 1, as well as reading non-fiction texts related to shape, color, and Jewish signs and symbols, such as the letters of the Hebrew alphabet and the *Magen David*.

Last week the students read an article from the Hebrew language newspaper. *Yanshuf / Shaar* about Israeli chemist, Ada Yonath, who was awarded the 2009 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, along with two other recipients. In addition, students read about Yitzchak Rabin. They have been instructed to read and answer the corresponding questions in their level. The article's newly introduced vocabulary provides a variety of conversational, reading and writing activities.

Students were tested on general comprehension and the new material, as well as being quizzed so as to enrich their writing and conversational skills in advance of the Regent exam. Please follow up with your child by promoting Hebrew conversation in your homes.

Hebrew – Mrs. Akerman (530-3)

This week was the *yarhzeit* of Yitzhak Rabin. We learned about his life and his accomplishments. The students read a short article and practiced writing in a journalistic style. We are learning about concepts connected to friendship. We are writing about different types of personal communication.

Hebrew – Mr. Baumvoll

We are continuing with the same methodology... I am working individually with the students in this class. Some students are working in the workbook, Alpha Neta 1 on vocabulary and interrogatives and some students are learning to read and conjugate words/sentences. I am pleased, as are the students, with the progress being achieved.