

8 SOUTH NEWS

April 2012

ENGLISH

Mr. Strecker

English students have started learning about Shakespeare in preparation for reading *Romeo and Juliet*. Students are reading an abridged version of the play that will lay a foundation for future study of the play and Shakespeare in general.

To start the unit, the students investigated how the English language changed historically and continues to change. This understanding makes it clear why Shakespeare's English is so different from the modern language. From there, the class delved into Shakespeare's language further by examining Shakespearean insults and sonnets. Specifically, the students learned about Shakespeare's use of iambic pentameter to make his poems flow.

In the coming weeks, students will look at the all five acts of *Romeo and Juliet*, focusing on making meaning from the language and understanding the plot of the story. Finally, the students will be writing a brief paper analyzing specific quotes in the overall context of the play.

MATH

Mr. Gostkiewicz

a.k.a. Mr. G

Algebra students are finishing up their study of systems of equations and inequalities. Currently, they have learned how to solve systems by using graphing, substitution, and elimination. We also learned how to apply these strategies to solve real-world problems by finding the break-even point. Now, the students will learn how to solve inequalities with one and two variables. They will see that these solutions are infinite.

Pre-algebra students are studying the pattern & function connection. They will learn how to look at patterns of blocks, numbers, money, and other forms to make predictions. The students will learn how to describe how the pattern evolves using words, pictures, graphs, and formulas. They will learn that a slope is a rate of change, and a y-intercept is a starting value in a pattern.

GLOBAL STUDIES

Ms. Suntheimer

Students have just finished putting their imagination to work with our famous Renaissance figure research project. There were some very creative ideas. Ask your child about their cereal box name, character, and slogan. As we move into May students will be writing an essay based on a prompt related to Memorial Day. Our top winners will read their essay at the school Memorial Day ceremony. We will also be starting our units on Enlightenment and the Scientific Revolution.

SCIENCE

Ms. Bonalli

Why do objects move the way that they do? That continues to be our guiding question for our unit on Force and Motion. Students conducted an experiment to investigate the relationship between center-seeking centripetal force and center-fleeing force of centrifugal force. They constructed a model of an amusement park cable ride. The first variable manipulated was the amount of washers pulling on the cable. Data was recorded on the revolutions per minute. The second task was to manipulate the

length of the cable, again recording the RPM's. This lab is an excellent lead-in to our next unit on space and planetary motion.

In addition we've been monitoring a pair of Red-tail hawks via a live camera feed from Cornell University. Go to the website below if you'd like to watch the young birds develop.

<http://www.livestream.com/cornellhawks>

EXTRA! EXTRA!

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

This is the first year that the Regional School District #4 has inserted make up days for emergency closings (a.k.a "sunny" days) in to our calendar for the purpose of solidifying a date for graduation and the end of school. As we approach the potential "sunny" days, it is important for everyone to understand when school will be in session in the upcoming months. Due to Hurricane Irene, we were not in session on August 30, 31 or September 1 and 2. One Professional Development day was moved to September 6, therefore displacing a student day. As such, we missed three school days for students. **With our new "sunny" days method, we will make up the three lost school days on April 16, May 25, and June 4, 2012. School will be in full session on those three days.** This will allow us to have 180 student days in the current school year while maintaining a fixed graduation date for Valley Regional High School and close school as early in June as possible. If you would like more information on how our calendar works, please visit the link below which has an explanation of future calendar years that utilize the same "sunny" day philosophy

<http://www.region4schools.com/calendar%20explanation>.

March ACT GOAL: Leadership

"Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other." --John F. Kennedy

"In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better." --Harry S Truman

"Example is leadership." --Albert Schweitzer

Please contact us if you have any specific questions regarding the calendar.

Sincerely,

Ian Neviaser, Assistant Superintendent

Regional School District #4- Chester, Deep River, Essex

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Breakfast

BREAKFAST: Over the past few weeks, since school has started, there have been a number of children coming to my office complaining of being “lightheaded”, “dizzy”, “hungry”, because they have not eaten breakfast. Please stress the importance of eating breakfast before coming to school each day. If your child doesn’t eat breakfast their ability to concentrate in class may be affected. The school serves breakfast until 7:30AM, so your child can purchase a breakfast before school. Your assistance with this matter will be greatly appreciated and will benefit your child’s academic success.