

JC McKenna Middle School School Newsletter

April 2018

Families of JC McKenna,

Spring is around the corner! I hope that everyone enjoys spring break and is able to take some time to relax and have fun with your kids. Forward testing will continue after spring break throughout the month of April. Classroom teachers will be preparing kids during Foundations time and will share testing dates with students and families prior to the tests. Please encourage your student(s) to do their best.

Tri-Core classes changed on March 5 and all of the grade levels seem to have settled into their last rotations for this school year quickly.

Play practice is in full swing and the actors/actresses will be making their debut May 17 so mark it on your calendars.

I ran across an after school suggestion list to replace the “How was your day?” question. If you want to hear something other than “nothing” or “fine” maybe you could try some of these out.

- What made you smile today?
- Can you tell me an example of kindness you saw/showed?
- What did you do that was creative?
- Who did you sit with at lunch? What did you talk about?
- Tell me something you know today that you didn't know yesterday?
- What was the hardest rule to follow today?
- If you could change one thing about your day, what would it be?
- What made your teacher smile? What made your teacher frown?
- If you could switch seats with anyone in class, who would it be? And why?
- What kind of person were you today?

Thank you for sharing your kids with us each day!

Mrs. Joanie Dobbs

Important Dates

April 2.....No School

April 16.....No School

Yearbook orders are due April
3rd

Mission Statement

“Educating and engaging the whole
student”

To create a stimulating, caring and socially responsible environment that encourages students to reach their individual potential

Nondiscrimination Statement

The Evansville Community School District prohibits harassment or discrimination against any pupil in any program or activity on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, physical, mental, emotional or learning disability, or any other basis protected by law.

Contacting JC McKenna Middle School Main Office Hours

7:15am-3:45pm

Telephone Extensions:

Principal, Mrs. Dobbs....882-3302

Attendance Voicemail .882-3301

School Guidance Counselor:

Mrs. Holm.....882-3304

School Social Worker:

Mr. Mike Czerwonka...882- 3356

307 S. First Street

Evansville, WI 53536

Fax: 608-882-5744

Website: jcm.ecsdnet.org

8th grade students during the new spinning unit



6th Grade News

6th Grade Team

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- Parents please continue to check over your child's assignment notebook even if the signature requirement has been lifted. This helps everyone stay informed about what is being assigned for homework as well as any upcoming tests or projects.
- Grades are posted online. Please use Family Access to find your child's grades. It takes about 1 week turn around time for teachers to post grades. If you have not signed-up for Family Access please contact Melinda Molloy at the District Office.

Homework Help!

- 6th Grade Success Club meets every Wednesday from 3:15 to 4:15 pm, except for the second Wednesday of each month due to staff meetings. This club is staffed by 6th grade teachers., and students with late work will be asked to attend by Wednesday. Contact your child's Team Time teacher if you have any questions. We take pride in providing many opportunities for students to complete work and get some additional support.

Social Studies: Mr. McKittrick

6th graders have wrapped up their "Transforming America" unit, and they learned a lot about the massive changes at the turn of the 20th century. Students wrote some well-reasoned argumentative essays explaining the pros and cons of this transformation. After examining oral histories, old photos and other primary sources, we dove into our annual Immigration Day, simulating the experience of Ellis Island and making some connections to immi-

gration today. We were lucky to get a visit from four guest speakers who told us about their experiences moving to Evansville from four different continents. After Spring Break we'll move on to study the world map and get just a taste of World War II.

Ellis Island Day was a huge success and we wish to thank the many parents and volunteers who helped make this educational simulation possible. Students had many

thoughts about their experiences and most seemed to empathize with the long lines, arduous examinations, and sometimes anxious worries about becoming an actual American citizen. We also wish to acknowledge our amazing speakers who shared their immigration and family history experiences: Mr. George Lamptey, Mr. Abner Reyes, Mr. Shidqi Ahmad, and Ms. Johanna Lema. Thank you all for supporting our students and programs!

MATH-Mr. Bethke

Regular math classes are beginning Chapter 8 of BIG IDEAS. Chapter 8 is the study of surface area and volume of prisms and pyramids. Students will be using formulas to find surface area and volume. Ask your child if they have done any math extra credit. Check out my YouTube lessons for extra practice or help on math skills. Calculators will be used in this chapter! Please make sure your child has a calculator at school. We also have begun the 6th Grade Forward Math Test!

Advanced Math students will be working with circumference

and area of circles, along with perimeter and area of composite figures in Chapter 8 of BIG IDEAS. Students will be working with the formulas for circles and they will be learning the difference between the radius and the diameter of a circle. Check out my YouTube lessons for extra practice or help on math skills. Calculators will be used in this chapter! Please make sure your child has a calculator at school. We also have begun the 6th Grade Forward Math Test!

Math Meet Team has been working hard with weekly practices after school. Their competition is scheduled for Thursday, April 5, 2018.

Math 24 Team was led by Anabelle Zblewski's overall 3rd place finish. Great job, Z!!

Mr. Bethke's website has a variety of math resources including YouTube video lessons from the current chapter for regular and advanced math classes.

<https://sites.google.com/a/ecsnet.org/bethke-website/home>

6th Grade Language Arts:

Students recently completed their immigration novels where they were asked to dig deeper, providing much more thought and reflection relating to *characters, traits, setting, mood, pressures, conflict, backstories, figurative language, theme, questions, textual evidence with page numbers and quotes.*

Apart from our novels, we have just completed the first bend in our third Lucy Calkin's unit on Research-Based Information Writing. In this unit, students have also been working hard on research relating to various types of "Teen Activism" Some of the topics include: environmental issues, animal rights, bullying, education for women/girls, gun violence, racism, and child labor around the world. Although this

type of research has been new and more challenging for our students, we have seen lots of growth and promise for even stronger writing down the road. In fact, after spring break students will compile their research while including lots of supportive, textual evidence related to their topic. They will then edit and revise their work to be included on a website or powerpoint to promote their cause.

In April, we plan on starting our integrated Civil Rights unit where students will again be able to pick a novel supporting this very important time in history. Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, One Crazy Summer, The Lions of Little Rock, Glory, Brown Girl Dreaming, Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom, and Watson's Go To Birmingham are some of the novels students will be selecting from.

Students will also begin writing their own children's books, which we will publish to share later this spring. Students have the option to purchase a blank hardcover book for \$3.00 which they can use for this project. (Other students will have tag board and white paper to use.) We will be collecting the money after break through mid-April. In early June, students will share their stories with second grades at Levi-Leonard, another Evansville tradition.

*Although Journal Writing is not assigned for spring break, we encourage students to keep the habit of daily reading strong with continued time spent reading. **Mr. Langan and***

Mrs. Smith

Mr. Langan and Mrs. Smith

Science

Science is still plugging away with Science Olympics. Many teams have surpassed their 300 and 400 point barriers. Check with your student to see how their team is doing. We have also finished up our chemistry units this week and will be moving into Physics. Our first mini unit will be on gravity. Students will then face their hardest SO challenge....the dreaded Cork and Fork!— —Mr. Greg Vossekuil



Immigration Day



7th Grade News

7th Grade Team

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Ms. Kelli Ours 882-3324

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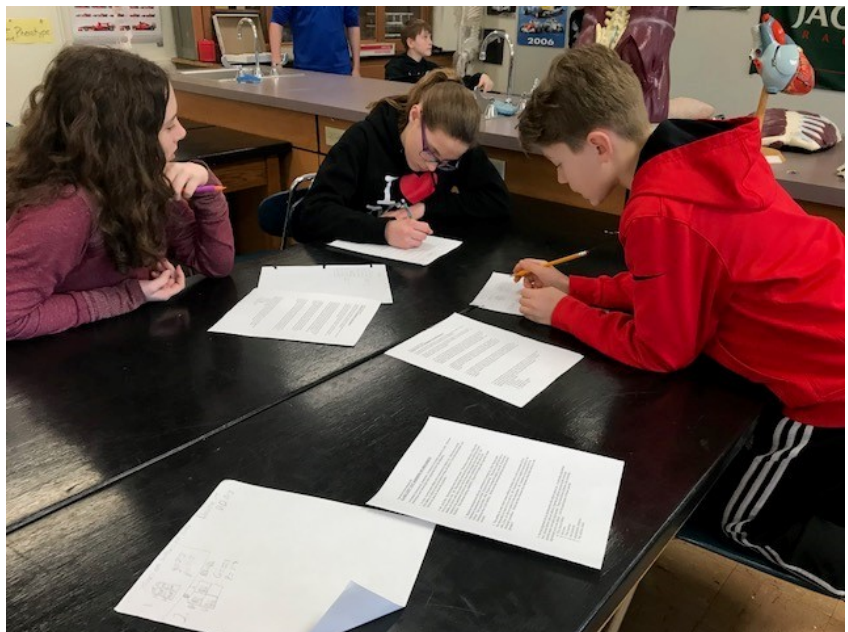
Oursk@evansville.k12.wi.us

7th grade math

Students are starting Chapter 6 a unit about percent. Students will be convert numbers into fractions, decimals and percents. We will be calculating mark-ups and sales prices. We will also be looking at simple interest.

7th Grade Science

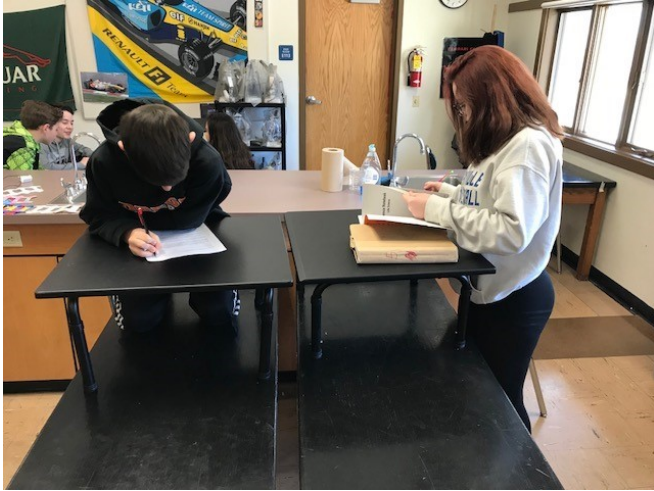
We are in the midst of our Genetics Unit and are currently studying topics like family pedigrees and blood typing. Parents, please check your emails for information about your child's spring Science Project. They will be due May 16th.



Students in 7th grade Spanish will be starting the Spanish food unit. Students will learn how to talk about the foods and drinks they like and don't like. They will also be able to talk about the foods they enjoy for each meal.

Students will also be choosing a novel in class to read for reader's workshop during the ELA portion of my class. Students will have some time to complete reading in class, but may be asked to read at home as well. Please check to see that your student has a notebook to use for this.

7th Grade News

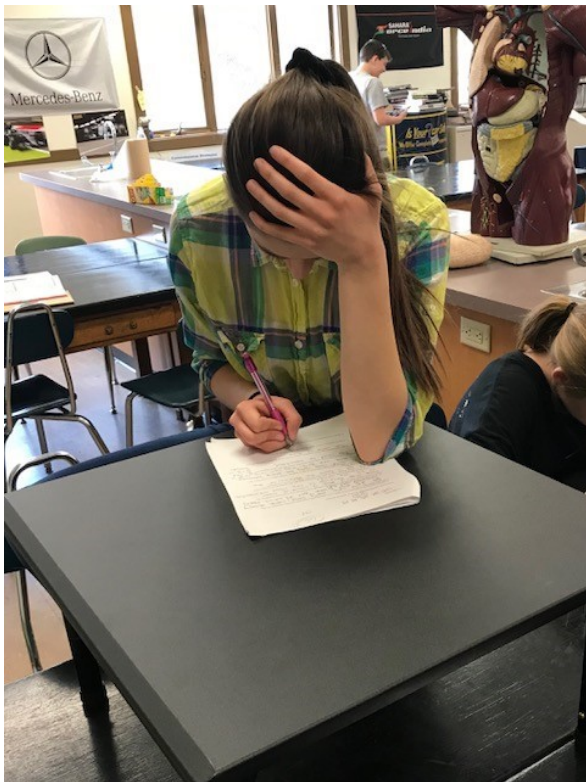


(students using new “standing work desks”)

Computer Applications 7

Welcome to the last tri-core of 7th grade! Mrs. Holm, our school guidance counselor, visited our classroom to research a possible career based on the matchmaker assessment. With their research, students then created an interactive poster to share with others. This project will be due after break. Looking forward, students will continue to practice and master keyboarding and work on word processing skills.

Happy **SPRING BREAK!**



World History

We will be completing our unit on Ancient Greece, and moving on to Ancient Rome this month. Have you ever heard the phrases, “All roads lead to Rome,” “Beware the Ides of March,” or “Crossing the Rubicon”? Your students will learn the meaning of these quotes and more as we continue to explore Classical Civilizations.

Toga Day



8th Grade News

Composition/Literature

8th grade ELA has had a amazing year so far with reading and writing, and I am expecting that to continue. Students have just finished their last major writing unit for the year - an argument essay where they researched and became familiar with the topic, chose a side to argue, and then used quotes as evidence to back up their claims. Moving ahead, after spring break, students will learn about WWII and the Holocaust. The means in creating knowledge about this era will take place though book clubs and reading.

ELA FORWARD Exam

Students will be taking the ELA Portions of the Forward Test in their Comp/Lit and Spanish classes from April 17th to April 20th.

Science

We are loving our new science program and Earth Science in 8th grade rocks! After Spring Break look for more work on Earthquakes and Volcanoes, and then the Earth History Timeline to follow. Hopefully, if the school year has not yet gone extinct, we will also tackle units on Space, Weather and Climate.

Spanish

Students in 8th grade Spanish will be learning the parts of the body and health terms. This is both a useful and fun unit!

World Geography

After spring break '18, students will be traveling to Europe to explore its very influential geography, history and culture.

Math 8

After a whirlwind March of pi activities, systems of equations, and functions, students will be starting April visiting the world of Pythagoras and his theorem. We will be studying square roots and cube roots to help us find the side lengths of right triangles.

Math FORWARD Exam

Students will be taking the Math portion of the Forward Test in their math classes April 6th or 9th, and April 11th or 12th.

Algebra

Polynomials and Quadratics! We'll use a number of methods to FOIL polynomial equations. We will also get to graph all kinds of parabolas. We'll see how changing parts of the equation changes the graph. Then, we'll start solving quadratic equations using a variety of methods. Ask your student how his/her pi group achieved and if they are going to be attending the pi party this month!

Tech Ed

Students will continue to study robotics in April. They will design, build, wire, and program both open and closed loop systems, use motors and sensors appropriately to solve robotic problems, and troubleshoot a malfunctioning system using a methodical approach.

8th Grade Team

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News from the LMC

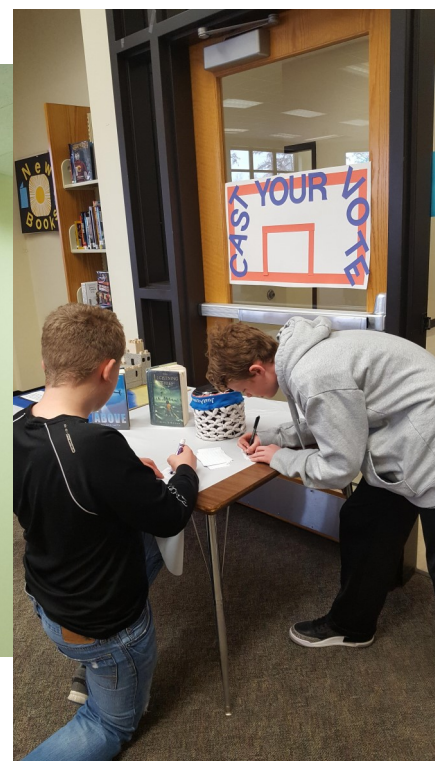
March was an exciting time in the JCM Library Media Center. We had a March Madness Book Bracket competition, in which students voted for their favorite books throughout the month. *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* by Rick Riordan was our winner, while second place was *Above* by Roland Smith! Rick Riordan is the author of many book series featuring Greek, Roman and Egyptian gods. If your student likes Percy Jackson encourage them to try another series: Magnus Chase, The Kane Chronicles, and Trials of Apollo are a few by Rick Riordan. Other related series by different authors are: Mark of the Thief trilogy by Jennifer Nielson, Atlantis Rising Saga by T. A. Barron or The Seven Wonders series by Peter Lerangis.

The March Madness book bracket was a great way to involve students in a hands-on literacy program and also gave insight into the kinds of books our students would like to see in the LMC. New book purchases related to our top winners will be coming soon to the LMC. Recommendations are also always welcome. Our recommendation sheet can be accessed on the [LMC website](#) and directly here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc5G4jwGMA95TJsfvUcXCS40Jloncget39I4e5jeLUotF70g/viewform> Students, parents, staff and community members are encouraged to make recommendations, which are reviewed and taken into consideration when new books are ordered.

As always, we are happy to help students find the information and resources they are looking for. If at any time, there are questions please feel free to contact us.

~Mrs. Beyerl, District Librarian beyerla@evansville.k12.wi.us 608-882-3131

& Mrs. Zastoupil, LMC Clerk zastoupila@evansville.k12.wi.us 608-882-3360





From the School Counselor and School Social Worker: School Safety

There has been a lot of news related to school safety recently. J. C. McKenna Middle School has begun implementation of the modern version of Crime Stoppers, the P3 app. P3—stands for Public—Police--Private Sector: working together to solve and prevent crime. The app graphic looks like:



A short while ago, we sent out information about the P3 Tips app. This app is designed to make crime, potential crime and concerns about community and school safety easy to report. It is available for iPhone and android devices as well as desktop computers. The Evansville Community School District is working to introduce this app to students to help report situations that may impact their safety in the community and in school. Officer Chad Sullivan (from the Janesville Police Department) has been working with Chief Scott McElroy and Lt. Patrick Reese from the Evansville Police Department as well as Jason Knott (High School Principal) and Joanie Dobbs (Middle School Principal) to bring this tool to our community.

The tips provided can be completely anonymous; however certain tips may be eligible for up to a \$50.00 reward. When tips are submitted they can quickly be forwarded to all the working law enforcement officers in the service area. This allows for a quick response to situations. In fact, during one of Officer Sullivan's shifts, about 20 tips are reported that get forwarded to school resource officers, local police officers and, in some situations, to select school staff.

Information from the P3 website describes the following uses:

COMMUNITY CRIME

P3 has quickly become the new standard in tip management for Crime Stoppers programs, LEA's [Law Enforcement Agencies] and government agencies helping to solve and prevent crimes around the world. Tips generated from our mobile app have quickly proven to be more effective than SMS text tips.

SCHOOL SAFETY

P3 has been successfully deployed in over 5,000 schools in the United States. We are proud to be the technology partner of multiple "safer school" initiatives - including Safe2Tell CO and SafeUT.

We encourage students to continue to take an active part in their safety by reporting situations where they have concerns about their own or another person's safety. We hope that by using this app we can continue to provide a safe environment for students and a safe community for students and those who live here.

Track practice will begin April 3.

All paperwork must be in before practice begins. Access forms at:

<http://www.ecsdnet.org/schools/high/activities/athletic-forms.cfm>

ATHLETIC SCHEDULES

Access at:

<http://www.ecsdnet.org/schools/high/activities/athletic-forms.cfm>



School Lunch

For monthly lunch menus please visit:

<http://www.taherfood4life.org/schools/evansville/menu/>



Things to Remember:

- ◆ Students may be on the playground at 7:30 a.m. The bell to enter the school will ring at 7:45 a.m. and school will begin at 7:50 a.m. Students that come after 7:50 a.m. will be marked as tardy. Please make sure to call the office at 882-3301 to report an absence or tardy.
- ◆ To help us keep our students safe, anyone coming to the Middle School should enter through door 15 (off the Liberty Street parking lot) and check in with the office staff. Please bring a valid ID with you.
- ◆ You may pay for lunch either online or by sending in a clearly marked envelope with student name and the word lunch money written on it with the money inside.
- ◆ Students go outside daily, please remind them to dress for the weather.

EVANSVILLE YOUTH CENTER

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 2018

2—NO SCHOOL/NO EYC

3—Movie and Popcorn

4—Pictionary

5—Just Dance Party

6—Wii Golf

9—Over-sized Games

10—Gaga Ball

11—Foosball Tournament

12—Skee-ball Tournament

13—Seeing is Disbelieving

16—EYC FIELD TRIP 8 am - 5:30 pm

17—Minute to Win It

18—Alison Library

19—Let's Cook

20—Crazy Relays

23—Frisbee Golf in the Park

24—Fishing in the Park

25—Frisbee Football

26—Wii Supercross

27—Party

30—Minute to Win It

1—Visiting Jewels Volunteer

2—Environmental Center

3—Karaoke

4—Karaoke

Harvest of the Month

Snow Peas



FUN FACTS:

You can eat the peas, pod and all!

Snow peas are thin and crisp. Their green pod contains tiny, tender, flattened peas.

They are an essential ingredient in Oriental cuisine, especially in stir-fries, fried rice and noodle dishes. Snow peas add a crunch to salads, and because they are so sweet, they are delicious eaten raw.

Due to the high natural sugar content, snow peas cook and brown quickly.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Let's Move!

We all know staying active is undeniably one of the most important things a person can do to ward off disease and live healthfully, however, making physical activity a priority can be challenging. Here is some information to help you get active and stay active, for life.

- Start slowly. Gradually build up to at least 30 minutes of activity on most or all days of the week.
- Exercise at the same time of day, so it becomes a regular part of your lifestyle.
- Find a convenient time and place to do activities, whether it is at a gym, community center, or home.
- Keep your expectations reasonable; don't get discouraged if you have set backs or need to stop for a while.
- Make it fun! Choose activities that are fun, add variety, ask family and friends to join you, and listen to music or audio books to keep you entertained.
- Track and celebrate successes, no matter how big or small. Success is success, no matter the size.

Let's celebrate physical activity and commit to being more active on a regular basis.

*Melanie Wirth, RDN, LD, MBA
Corporate Dietitian, Taher, Inc.*

HARVEST OF THE MONTH RECIPE—APRIL

Mediterranean Snow Peas

Yield: 3 servings

- 1 Tbs Unsalted Butter
- 1 Garlic Clove, minced
- 1/2 tsp Italian Seasoning
- 1/2 lb Snow Peas, trimmed
- 1 Tbs Water
- 1 Tbs Extra-Virgin Olive Oil
- 1 tsp Fresh Lemon Juice

1. Melt the butter in a skillet over medium heat. Cook and stir garlic until fragrant (about 30 seconds).
2. Stir in Italian seasoning and snow peas.
3. Add water, cook and stir until peas are bright green and tender (about 2 minutes).
4. Stir in olive oil and lemon juice.

NUTRITION SNAPSHOT ~ 1 serving

107 calories, 8.5g total fat, 2.5g saturated fat, 0g trans fat, 10mg cholesterol, 6g carbohydrate, 2.6g protein, 34mg sodium, 3g sugar, 2g fiber

