



# West Valley Middle School

## December 2018 Newsletter

### BIRTHDAYS

12/01 Harris Yess & Alannah Shaffner  
 12/04 Naomie Gardette & Ayla Schroeder  
 12/07 Tiffany Martinez  
 12/14 Angela D'Amato  
 12/24 Rebecca Kennedy

### NEWS & REMINDERS

12/3 - Secret Santa Forms Due  
 12/6 - Students Pick Secret Santa  
 12/10 - Secret Santa Begins!  
 12/14 - Winter Formal  
 12/20 - Secret Santa Reveal  
 12/21 - Holiday Luncheon  
 12/24 - 12/31 - Non-Academic Days  
 12/24 Close at 12:00pm  
 12/25 - School Closed

### UPCOMING DATES

1/1 - New Year's Day - School Closed  
 1/2 - 1/4 - Non Academic Days  
 1/7 - Academic Classes Resume  
 1/19 - Public Open House  
 1/23 - Trimester 2 Progress Reports

### CLASSROOM NEWS

#### Mr. Mikles Room 2:

#### *7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science*

The students will be going on a voyage with Charles Darwin this

month as we start to learn about evolution. The students will be shooting a short video about the voyage of Charles Darwin and exploring how his discoveries helped pave the work of the modern idea of evolution. This will give them the foundation for their next research paper on endangered and extinct species that they will be starting and continuing after the break.

#### *8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science*

Acids and bases are going to be discussed in this month. The students will begin by making a movie on how acids and bases interact with one another. Using that knowledge and their prior learning on balancing equations, the students will be learning how

 <h1>DECEMBER</h1>					
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 Secret Santa Forms Due	4	5	6 Student's Pick Secret Santa 	7	8 
10 Secret Santa Begins 	11	12	13	14 Winter Formal 	15
17	18	19	20 Secret Santa Reveal	21 Holiday Luncheon	22
24 Non-Academic  Close at 12:00	25 Closed in observance of Christmas 	26 Non-Academic	27 Non-Academic	28 Non-Academic	29
31 Non-Academic 	1 Closed in observance of New Years Day	2 Non-Academic	3 Non-Academic	4 Non-Academic	5 

to balance equations with acids and bases. The students will also learn how pH plays a role in their daily lives and how it can be changed by using acids and bases

### **Mrs. Keefe Room 3**

Students will solve one-step equations with decimals and fractions.

#### ***Algebra 1***

We will learn to solve systems of equations by graphing, substitution, and elimination methods.

#### ***Geometry***

We will continue to practice writing two-column proofs and review algebra concepts for parallel and perpendicular lines.

#### ***Algebra 2***

We will study chapter 7 Logarithmic and Exponential Functions and Relations.

### **Mrs. Schimpke Room 4**

#### ***7<sup>th</sup> Grade World History***

Students are finishing their short unit on the Gupta Empire, and then moving into the study of West African Cultures. Students will participate in a drum lesson, design their own kente cloth, and learn about how the influence of the Muslim world changed West Africa.

#### ***8<sup>th</sup> Grade US History***

Students are continuing their study of the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and politics. As we move into the history of the early republic we will begin discussing slavery. I encourage all families to discuss how their child feels as we move forward into our critical discussions of this difficult topic.

#### ***7<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA (High School Track):***

Students have wrapped up reading *Alice in Wonderland* and a review of grammar this trimester. With the change in trimester, students will be starting their next unit in the Pearson textbook called "A Starry Night". During this unit, our focus will be on reading shorter texts, writing, and grammar.

### **Mr. Cembellin Room 5**

#### ***6<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors Language Arts***

Students will continue working through our Unit 2 theme of "Animal Allies." Focusing on the relationship between people and animals, students will practice writing to compare different texts, and will work in small groups to deliver an informative multimedia presentation about the ideas highlighted in our reading selections. In addition, students will continue to practice introductory research methods and learn how to find and integrate credible sources into their own writing.

#### ***7<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors Language Arts***

This month we will continue our Unit 2 theme of "A Starry Home." Students will practice how to write an effective argument in various forms, including a blog post, editorial, formal essay, and oral presentation. Through credible evidence, logical reasoning, and academic vocabulary, students will use the various texts and perspectives of the unit to determine whether humans should spend valuable resources on space exploration.

#### ***8<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors Language Arts***

Our class will continue our Unit 2 theme of The Holocaust. Having been introduced to the subject matter and historical context, we will read Elie Wiesel's book *Night*, which is an autobiographical account of his experiences in concentration camps. Students will write an explanatory essay and begin working on a multimedia presentation about how literature can help us remember and honor the victims of this horrible and tragic historical event.

 **Maestra Renteria Room 6**

***5th Grade Spanish***

Students will be learning weather expression and colors. They also will be able to learn the Seasons.

***6th Grade Spanish***

Students will be learning new vocabulary and studying the personal pronouns and how to properly use them in Spanish

***7th Grade Spanish***

Students will be studying the present tense of –er and -ir verbs. They also will be learning the differences between ser (to be) and estar (to be) and how to use them in context.

***8th Grade Spanish***

Students will be learning irregular verbs in the present. They also will be learning new “boot” (stem- changing) verbs.

 **Mrs. Pai Room 7**

***5th Grade Science***

The students will describe a compound and identify common compounds. They will also be able to compare and contrast the properties of compounds and elements.

***6th Grade Science***

The students will learn about how hurricanes form, and how water cycle influences the local weather. They will also learn about what affects the formation of a cloud and will also make a cloud in a jar!

 **Mrs. Scripps Room 8**

***5th Grade Language Arts***

To further support comprehension of *Night of the Spadefoot Toads* students will read several supporting texts. Short stories will help students identify critical details, compare and contrast characters and events. Students will also begin to explore theme, tone and word choice.

***Life Skills***

Avoiding Stereotypes, True Self, Integrity, and Empathy will be our focus this month. Students will also participate in an all-class community service project to highlight what it truly means to have holiday spirit.

 **Mrs. Sanford Room 9**

***5th Grade Social Studies***

In Fifth Grade U.S, History we are exploring Unit 3: Settling the Colonies. Students will learn why different people came to the English colonies and where they settled. Also how the colonists impacted the American Indian groups. Lastly we will study what kind of governments, economies and new ideas developed in the colonies. Our in-class project will be a Colonial Newspaper.

***6th Grade Social Studies***

In Sixth Grade Ancient Civilizations we will study Unit 3: Civilization in India and China. Two of the earliest civilizations of the ancient world arose in India and in China. In both of these places, river valleys provided the setting for development of civilization. Indians and Chinese built large empires and made many advances in science, art and learning. We will also learn about two of the world's major religions-Hinduism and Buddhism. Our in-class project will be writing a Persuasive Essay.

*Happy Holidays!*



Mrs. Tadena Room 10

***5th Grade Math***

Students will add and subtract fractions. They will apply their knowledge to a project they have been looking forward to: double a recipe to bring to our class potluck!

***6th Grade Math***

Students will use unit rates to solve proportions involving variables, and use proportions to solve problems involving scale. They will solve proportions to find missing lengths in similar figures. Lastly, they will solve problems using proportions and equations.

***Pre-Algebra***

Students will build on their knowledge of fractions and rational numbers. They solve equations by adding, subtracting, and multiplying fractions. They also apply multiplication of fractions to convert customary units of measure. They convert fractions to decimals, and lastly, find powers of products and quotients.

***8th ELA***

In Unit 2, students will analyze text structures in drama and respond to the prompt: How are historical events reflected in the play "The Diary of Anne Frank"? Grammar study will include principal parts of verbs.