



# GOOD NEWS

## SOCIAL STUDIES

Ask your child if he or she would like specific thoughts or concerns communicated to the teacher.

If only one parent of a two-parent household can attend, pack paper and a pen to take notes.

If you are concerned about your child's work, keep copies of materials that illustrate your concerns and bring them to the meeting.

Remember that other parents will be waiting to meet with the teacher. Plan on keeping your conference to 5-10 minutes.

Useful tips for communicating during parent – teacher conferences:

Focus on one problem at a time

Ask for suggestions

Make observations

Ask for the teacher's observations and for specific examples

Ask if you should help your child with homework

Ask if your child follows directions, participates in class, gets along with others, or comes to class prepared

Ask if your child often needs extra help

Set up a method of communicating with the teacher when work is not turned in on time

Useful tips for talking with your child after the conferences:

When you talk to your child about the conference, pass on the positive information first. Be specific when describing the areas where your child is successful.

If there is a problem, make sure it is communicated clearly and assure the child that you and the teacher have worked out a plan to help him or her be successful.

## SCIENCE

### Marking Period Update on Science

-6th graders just finished up their units on Science Inquiry and the States of Matter

-7th graders are working on finishing up their units on Cells and Genetics

- 8th graders finished up Structure of the Earth and are now working on finishing Earth Resources

\* We continue to focus on problem solving and critical thinking throughout our units\*

# TECHNOLOGY

## Technology Tip for Parents

More than ever before, today's kids need their parents to help them acquire the skills to use time wisely. Technology has opened many doors to vast amounts of information, social networks around the world, and new career development opportunities. Parents can help kids be selective in using technology for learning as well as for entertainment purposes by modeling lifelong learning skills and monitoring their kids' use of software and the Internet. In order to do this, parents need to be technology savvy.

## Surfing the Net

According to Don Tapscott in an article titled *The Net Generation and the School* (available online at [www.milkenexchange.org/feature/tapscott.html](http://www.milkenexchange.org/feature/tapscott.html)), 88% of today's adolescents agree that it is "in" to be online.

Surfing through the resources on the Internet provides opportunities for exciting discoveries as well as encounters with the unknown. Teach youngsters to navigate through this global network of information and online groups safely by establishing household "Net Rules" such as:

Have an action plan for using your time online.

Remember that homework on the Internet comes before playing games and socializing.

Respect yourself and others during online chats. Do not engage in discussions with individuals or groups that you do not know.

Keep your password a secret.

Do not give your full name, address, telephone number, social security number, or other personal identification information to anyone or any organization online, unless you first have your parent's permission.

# MATH

Congratulations to these math stars for getting 100% on their unit tests.

## 6th Grade

Vidhan Khanal

Alen Havic

Allison Biss

Mirnes Kovacevic

## 7th Grade

Mariah Rodriguez

Andrew Essenberg

Paul Luu

Nathan Powell

## 8th Grade

Eduardo Diaz

Calvin Harry

Juan Sanchez

Sydnee Semon

Rebecca Brown

Malik Buchanan

Haley Jackson

6th grade math students just completed their work with decimals, and how to solve real-world problems, such as tax and tip, with decimals. Sixth grade students will now be starting the unit on common factors and common multiples.

7th grade math students are studying the unit "Stretching and Shrinking" which examines similar shapes and scale factors.

8th grade math students are studying the unit "Looking for Pythagoras" which examines area of shapes, square numbers, square roots, rational numbers and the Pythagorean Theorem.