

Falcon Update

FULLER MIDDLE SCHOOL
1000 Bay Street
Framingham, MA 01901



News From The Principal

Dear families and students,

Though it may seem that it was just yesterday that we started the school year we have completed the first trimester of school which was filled with challenges and many more successes. I believe that when you receive the report cards on the 9th of December that you'll agree that your children are making progress and doing well academically. Throughout the trimester I've witnessed the teachers collaborating with one another to plan highly effective and rigorous lessons and students working hard to meet the higher standards set by their teachers. Our data also shows that our stu-

dents and staff have been able to work in an environment that allows everyone to focus on the academics as the numbers of disruptions in class have been kept to a minimum. I congratulate all staff and students for their success during this first term and I would like to invite the families to join me as we celebrate the academic achievement of our students on the following dates: Gr 6 Dec 12th, Gr 8 Dec 13th and Gr 7 Dec 14th. All the assemblies will take place from 10:30 to 11:30. This past month our students had the pleasure of participating in the Annual Turkey Trot just prior to the Thanksgiving break. This past weekend, well over forty of our students along with students from the McCarthy Elementary put on

an outstanding performance of the "Little Shop of Horrors". I am looking forward to the Arts -A-Palooza on the 23rd of Dec and the Multi-Cultural Festival on the 18th of January. Please save those dates on your calendar and details will be forthcoming soon.

Lastly I want to take this opportunity to thank you for all the support you've given me during these first three months and to wish all students, families and members of the community of Framingham a very healthy and Happy Holiday Season with families and friends!!!
Season Wishes
José P. Duarte
Principal

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The Fuller Middle School Annual Arts-A-Palooza is scheduled for December 23rd and will showcase performances by the Band, Chorus, Orchestra as well as a student art exhibit for students currently enrolled in Visual Art class. Please stay tuned for additional details and mark your calendars for December 23rd to celebrate the many talented performers and visual artists here at Fuller!!!

Unified Arts and World Language

On Wednesday November 23, students at Fuller participated in the 10th running of the Turkey Trot! The Turkey Trot is a one mile race around Fuller Middle School and Mass Bay College. Students took off running at the start and pushed themselves to finish this fun and exciting race. During the race, students listened to music playing from a dj booth and at the completion of the race students ran through an inflatable tunnel

both donated to us by a company called Boostertion. Participants in the race also received water and a snack at the end of the race donated by our Fuller families.

Many of our Fuller staff members, including Mr. Duarte, ran the race with our students and help encouraged them to keep running and make it to the finish line.

Following the Turkey Trot, all students gathered in the

gymnasium for an all school assembly. Winners of the Turkey Trot were announced and given medals, Mr. Duarte acknowledged students whom adhere to our core values and we also had school wide participation in the mannequin challenge led by Mr. Harvey, and finally a human curling competition amongst staff members!

It was a busy day at Fuller Middle School but one that both our students and staff enjoyed and shared many laughs together.

What is the Seal of Biliteracy?

“The Seal of Biliteracy is an award given by a school, school district or county office of education in recognition of students who have studied and attained proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation. The Seal of Biliteracy takes the form of a gold seal that appears on the transcript or diploma of the graduating senior and is a statement of accomplishment for future employers and for college admissions. In addition to the Seal of Biliteracy that marks attainment of high level mastery of two or more languages, schools and districts are also instituting **Bilingual Pathway Awards**, recognizing significant steps towards developing biliteracy along a student’s trajectory from preschool into high school.”

Last year Fuller, Woodrow Wilson, and FHS piloted the [Seal of Biliteracy program](#). English Learners (ELs)

and Former English Learners (FELs) who had scored a 5.0 or above on the ACCESS English Language Proficiency assessment, and a 4 or above on PARCC ELA were awarded a certificate of biliteracy. The purpose of the certificates at the elementary and middle levels is to recognize the achievement of students who demonstrate proficiency in more than one language. It is a very prestigious honor and we are so fortunate to be in a state that recognizes the double-effort made by students who become academically proficient in more than one language.

Since **the certificate and seal are not just for ELs or FELs, but is available to any student who can demonstrate academic proficiency in multiple languages**, the district Bilingual Education Department has been working in conjunction with other departments to clarify the requirements that students must meet in order to be eligible.

Currently, the criteria is as follows (although may be subject to change as we continue to work on this pilot program):

English Learners:

- 5.0 or above overall proficiency level on ACCESS
 - **FELs:** Equivalent ESL-exit criteria if there are no ACCESS scores
- Academic proficiency in another language as measured by a native language (LAS) exam
 - **FELs:** World Language portfolio in partner language (Spanish or French)

Native English Speakers

- Meet or Exceed state assessment criteria
- World Language portfolio in partner language (Spanish or French)

Student Support

During the months of October and November the Student Support Team worked with students on college awareness. We held a door decorating contest and students decorated their homeroom door based on specific colleges. Here are some pictures of the great job students did!

On November 18th all 8th grade students attended a field trip to Keefe Tech High School. Students were able to tour shops and see all of the wonderful career fields that Keefe has to offer. Students can now apply to Keefe Tech online. Here is the link for the applications.

<http://www.keefetech.org/page15/#!>

If you have any questions regarding how to apply online you can contact your child’s School Counselor or Adrienne Bogusky at Keefe Tech. The priority application deadline is January 13 2017. The Keefe Tech Career

Night will be held at Keefe on Wednesday Dec 7th from 5:30 to 8:00pm. Both 7th and 8th grade parents and students are invited to attend.

The Student Support Team worked with the 8th grade to help collect items for our Thanksgiving food drive. We were

able to help 13 families and are hoping to help more for the December holidays. If you would like to donate food or gift cards please contact Michelle Gallagher or our School Social Worker, Stephanie Chamberlain. We appreciate your donations!



Tangerine Team

The approach of December and Winter break has not phased students of the Tangerine Team as they continue to forge through their classes and put forth their best effort!

In Math class most students are working on their Rational Number skills. They are building their understanding of how to complete all operations with positive and negative rational numbers, including decimals and fractions. Soon they will take all of their computation knowledge and use it to solve real-world problems and scenarios so they can make connections for where they will see this type of math in their lives. Some students have completed this unit and are now working on

their Expressions and Equations. Students are beginning to generate equivalent expressions with algebraic techniques. Soon they will be able to use these techniques to write and solve equations.

The students in Ms. Ritter's Science Class carried out an "Osmosis Gummy Bear Activity". The purpose of this activity was to teach students how to conduct scientific investigations and gain a better foundation of the metric system. The students used components of experimental design to practice using the metric system for measuring as they learned volume, mass, and density. The students were able to design and implement experimental

procedures when given a problem. It was rewarding to taste a few of the left over gummy bears! In Social Studies students have started their Mesopotamia Unit. The students are learning about the beginning of civilization and what the key characteristics of a civilization are. Their studies are focused around the essential question: "what does a civilization need to be successful?" Students will begin to recognize that all successful civilizations contain the following five components: government; religion; writing; social structure, jobs, and food supply; art, culture, and technology. This unit will carry us through the holiday season. The first week back from winter break we will be diving into our new unit: Egypt!

Blue Team

It's finally December! Where have the first three months gone? As the saying goes, time flies when you're having fun and that's what is happening here on the Blue Team along with much learning, of course!

Most of our 8th graders are really settling in as 8th grade students and showing us that they are getting ready for high school. If you're not seeing it at home yet, that's okay. It is easier for us as we interact with the collective group on a daily basis. This transition does happen gradually, and for some, it happens faster than others. But please trust us, it does happen for all of them eventually. Be patient!

As teachers who enjoy working

with this age group, we understand the importance of consistency, routines, and laughter. We're putting much effort into bringing best practices into each team classroom for the benefit of the students. In addition to our curriculum, we're working on effective classroom management practices across the team that ensure safety and respect for all students. Because we always want our students to perform at the highest level they can, we are sharing ways to challenge their thinking and to make that thinking visible in a variety of ways in each class. Furthermore, we are continuing to develop special opportunities to recognize and promote posi-

tive behaviors across the team, whether class based or as a full team. Using the school-wide PBIS blue ticket system, we are creating methods to celebrate the students in a meaningful, fun, and consistent way.

Lastly, as a full grade in mid-November, we went on an informational visit to Keefe Tech. The students made personal choices to investigate and learn about three of the many career offerings at the school. It was a worthwhile trip, as the students were eager to ask questions and engage in important discussions when we returned to school. Fuller students are lucky to have many choices for high school and as their teachers, we're happy to help them talk through the possibilities so they make the decision that is right for each of them.

Green Team

On November 3rd the Green Team held a community meeting and decided to undertake a very personal and meaningful challenge. They claimed ownership of the Fuller Family Food Drive. Every year the students and faculty at Fuller Middle School try and help their own by raising money and collecting food for some of the less fortunate families that may need assistance during the holiday season. This year was no exception. The Green Team decided to take the reins for this challenge. Ms. Gallagher shared a very personal experience of when she was young and in need of assistance during her high school years and how she will never forget those that reached out to help her. This showed the students that you just never know who amongst them may need their help. The person sitting right next to them, who looks and dresses just like them, may need a little pick me up this season.

The members of the Green Team got right to work drafting letters to go home to the student body of Fuller Middle School, designing and hanging posters around the school and creating bulletin boards to advertise their initiative. Announcements were made each day and a post was sent via the PTO so that we could have community support. Students then worked tirelessly collecting the food from around the school each day until the November 18th deadline in order to make the 13 dinner boxes that they were able to create. Their original goal was 10 and they were able to exceed this and allow 3 extra families have a nourishing meal this Thanksgiving. In addition to all of the food in the boxes; stuffing, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, corn muffins, green beans, soup mix, corn, veggies, gravy, jello, dessert and more, each box contained a gift card to purchase fresh produce and a fresh turkey courtesy of

Honey Baked Ham.

The Green Team Students worked together as a team in order to complete this mission. They learned what it was like to help others in their own community and selflessly comfort others in their time of need. This is a lesson that can't be taught but must be experienced first-hand.

The giving of the food drive will continue until the winter break as we continue to have families that need our help. If you are able to assist in any way please contact Ms. Gallagher at mgallagher@framingham.k12.ma.us or contact the guidance office at Fuller Middle School. If you know of a family that needs assistance, please reach out to us as well. We will do our best to help this holiday season. Happy holidays and happy New Year.

For those interested in helping and getting involved in your community, I would like to announce the return of the **Interact Club**. This is a service oriented club that focuses on school and town-wide based activities. To find out more about this exciting opportunity, please stop by room B38 or contact Ms. Gallagher at mgallagher@framingham.k12.ma.us.

Platinum Team

Hello Platinum Families,
The Platinum students are working hard to finish a successful first trimester. In their Science class they are conducting some exciting experiments involving the processes of diffusion and osmosis. Currently they are writing a lab report that models ones done at the high school. We have established a purpose, hypothesis, written a detailed procedure and are currently gathering data to support our hypothesis as we form a conclusion. In Social Studies the students have just begun the Mesopotamia Unit. The students are learning

about the beginning of civilization and what the key characteristics of a civilization are. Our studies are focused around the essential question: "what does a civilization need to be successful?" The students will begin to recognize that all successful civilizations contain the following five components: government; religion; writing; social structure, jobs, and food supply; art, culture, and technology. This unit will carry us through the holiday season. The first week back from winter break we will be diving into our new unit: Egypt!

In Language Arts the 7th graders continue to read *Lyddie* while learning about the history of the Massachusetts

textile mills in the 1840s. This week the students are finishing a compare and contrast writing assignment. In math, the students are finishing up the rational numbers unit, and beginning the ratios and proportions unit.

Throughout the end of this trimester, and continuing into the second trimester, the Platinum students will be collaborating with classmates, teachers and other teams of students to prepare for the upcoming multicultural night at Fuller on January 18, 2017 at 6p.m. More details to follow; we encourage all Platinum families to attend!

Interact Club

Interact is a leadership community service club that is sponsored and backed by the Framingham Rotary Club. We will meet approximately once a week and sometimes twice a week if the need be. The days of meeting may not be consistent since some of the community service activities we participate in are outside of school hours and therefore may fall on weekend days. The students that choose to be a part of this club are the leaders of the school and are expected to behave as such. This means that they are to maintain their grades and their behavior in and out of the classroom should be role model evident.

Students interested in becoming members of this club should have an interest in assisting in bettering their community, including and not limited to their school, assisting in helping fellow classmates, learning about selflessness, teambuilding and overall leadership opportunities. Our

motto is "Service before Self".

Examples of past activities that this group has participated in have included part clean-ups, flower planting along route 135, collecting money at the Boston Marathon route, food drives, car washes, electronics training for the elderly, pumpkin carvings, ginger bread house building, team building games, Pennies for Patients for the Leukemia Society and raking for the elderly to mention a few.

This is a student advised club and the students vote on the activities that they would like to be a part of. Guidance is provided by the advisor. Students are encouraged to attend all meetings and activities but school is the number one priority and if a meeting must be missed, communication with the advisor is encouraged.

Calendar of potential events

November

- Food Drive to help Fuller Families
- Raking for the Elderly

December

- Food/Gift Drive to help Fuller Families
- Ginger Bread House building (team work)

January

- Team building activities
- Spirit Days

February

- Pennies for Patients (Feb. 27-March 17)
- Help out at a food pantry in Framingham
- Kindness Awareness Month

March

- Pennies for Patients (Feb. 27-March 17)
- Buddy up with McCarthy to read to K-1

April

- Car wash to raise money for charity of choice
- Spirit week
- Staff/Student basketball event possibility

May

- Movie event to raise money for charity
- Team building activities
- Buddy up with McCarthy to read to K-1

June

- End of year picnic and field day

Lime Team

The Lime.com Team has been involved in many exciting learning experiences. Mrs. Hakar's Math class just wrapped up lessons on division of fractions. Before the Thanksgiving break, they continued to work on their STEAM projects by beginning to design their food trucks and choosing a company name. Last week in Mrs. Rogan's Science class students learned to read liquid volume measurements in a variety graduated cylinders with different increment values. They also deter-

mined the volume of different rocks using the displacement of water method. This week students began researching a water or wind erosion/deposition assigned topic and creating a slide presentation. In Mrs. Bonner's ELA class, students have begun a new unit where they are learning how to write literary analysis essays. It has been great to see all of the effort students are putting into their writing! Students in Mrs. Bonner's Social Studies class have begun a new unit learning about South America. Students have been creat-

ing detailed political and physical maps of South America. Students in Mr. Zieky's Social Studies class spent Monday learning about the history of Cuba and Fidel Castro. On Tuesday, students began their South America unit, highlighted by the upcoming Amazon Rainforest conference debate. During a recent FLEX Block teachers helped students to organize their binders and homework folders. The guidelines for organizing binders and folders were sent home with the students.

Crimson Team

Crimson Team News:

Since our last article, the Crimson Team had a visit from Peter Harvell from the Framingham Veteran's Affairs office. As a culminating activity to our visit with the veterans, students wrote letters of gratitude to the veterans. They were able to practice friendly letter format and use of descriptive words. We are grateful for our veterans and their hard work!

We recently had a Thanksgiving celebration with students and staff where we all sat down together to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal. We continued our theme of gratitude by making our thinking visible and sharing what we are grateful for in our lives. It was a day of thanks, reflection, and celebration as a Fuller family.

Language Arts classes are exploring and learning through realistic fiction and nonfiction texts. Continuing to build vocabulary will be important as we go through this learning adventure. Students will also continue to practice their writing through written responses, journal writing, and practicing writing through more formal writing assignments. Additionally, be on the lookout for chosen library books that students will read at home and/or in school. Students will create their own reviews based on their opinions of their chosen books. Book returns take place on day 2 of our six day rotating schedule.

In Math, students are exploring operations with fractions, They are learning about identifying fractions, ordering fractions, and will eventually be learning about mixed numbers and improper fractions.

In Social Studies, students are learning about the rights and responsibilities of a citizen. They are learning what it means to be a citizen, how to become a citizen, and how to be an active citizen in the community. We continue to watch CNN Student News each day to keep aware of what is happening in the world and be good global citizens.

In Science the Patriots and the Red Sox are learning all about cell theory, the parts of a cell, and how cells are connected to all living things. The Bruins are learning about how we use of 5 senses to interact with our environment.

Students were active citizens of the Fuller community by helping to sort and deliver pie orders. Be on the lookout for new Fuller wear. We will be helping to organize the order for the new Fuller wear styles.

Opal Team

Science

November has come and gone like glacial erosion. Opal students have now started into their Inside Earth textbook where we will be learning about convection currents and plate tectonics. The lava lamp will be a staple in my classroom to work as a visual cue for the three types of heat transfer: radiation, convection and conduction.

Math

In the first trimester of math we have made our thinking visible through showing our fraction and decimal operations with area models, inverse operations, and ratio tables. As we have learned and developed these skills we

have continued to apply them to our STEAM Food Truck project. We have created signature drinks with ratio tables and equations to calculate the amount of product needed for them. Our food truck business is growing and we have started to design the actual food truck. In the beginning of November we wrote letters to Food Network telling them about our businesses and our STEAM projects. In the next trimester we will be developing our fractions and decimal operations, and begin looking at order of operations.

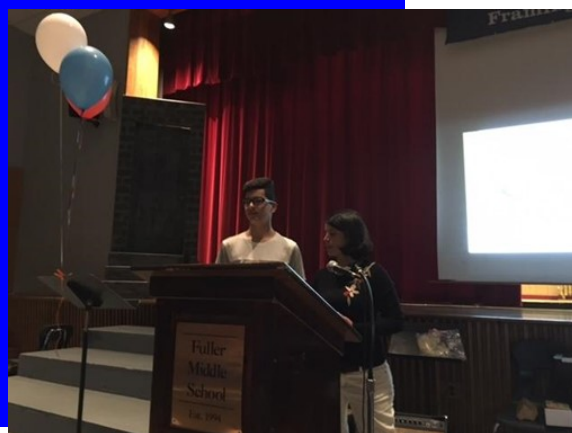
ELA:

First trimester has quickly come to an end in Language Arts. We

have just finished our Folktale unit by writing original folktales. We are beginning our new unit, Literary analysis where we will be analyzing short stories and writing arguments about characters and themes. Students will learn strategies to gather, analyze, and explain evidence from the text to support a claim.

Social Studies

In Social Studies students are identifying the countries and capitals of their first continent of study and creating both physical and political maps of the continent. Students are studying with Mr. Keady Europe and South America with Ms. Dunne and Mrs. Gelardi.



Gold Team

What's happening in TBE Spanish Science classes with Mrs. Meléndez? Lots of learning and projects. The 6th grade TBE Spanish Science class has been studying about the history of the Earth, rocks and fossils. In the past weeks we have made different types of models of fossils and this week we are making edible ones! Throughout this trimester we have focused on using graphic organizers and outlines as a study strategy. The 7th grade class is learning about cells. We worked on making a timeline, a poster and a chart to represent graphically what we are learning. Now we are studying about cells but in English. So far it really is going well. It's not even as hard as we thought! We are learning to rely on cognates and reading strategies to help us with the English. And in the 8th grade class, we are learning about matter. We have done some

fun activities to learn about the structure of the atom and about the properties of matter. Maybe the best one was our Density Lab. We got to chew gum! We can't wait to get into the lab and do some more real science experiments! In the next weeks we will continue talking about physical and chemical changes in matter. In addition to all this science learning, we are doing some unit work in English and we are integrating math concepts and review as we go along. Muchas gracias a los padres por su compromiso e interés con la educación de sus hijos y por apoyarnos a nosotros los maestros.

In Spanish Language Arts, we have read and discussed various teen stories by implementing our Academic Conversation strategies. We are also sharpening our essay writing skill by writing 5 paragraph essays based on our Academic Conversations about our teen

stories.

In 6th grade ESL 2, we have been working on our prefixes and suffixes. We also had a lot of fun improving our English reading fluency, and pronunciation by reading and performing a Reader's Theaters script in front of other classrooms.

The Gold team had a successful first Celebration of Writing on November 21, 2016. Students in the TBE program read their written responses in English, Spanish, and Portuguese to Fuller's Veteran's Day in front of peers, family members and staff. Principal, Mr. Duarte was impressed with the quality of the students' writing and their poise. Well done teachers, and we look forward to the next Celebration of Writing! Gracias a los padres que estuvieron presentes en la celebración. Fue un momento de mucho orgullo. Somos gratos a todos os pais que estiveram presentes na celebração. Foi um momento de grande orgulho.

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

FULLER MIDDLE SCHOOL 2016



Congratulations to
the Cast & Crew
of Little Shop!!

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