



FALCON UPDATE

NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families and Students,

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Lime Team	2
Crimson Team	3
Blue Team	4
Opal Team	4
Tangerine Team	5
Green Team	6
Platinum Team	7
Specials	8
Library Media	9

I would like to begin this article by sharing with you that earlier this week we concluded four very successful days of ELA and math MCAS testing. Student attendance was very high; students were focused, and I witnessed them working very hard on the tests. I am proud of their efforts and I am sure I will be equally proud of the results when they are published later this summer. On Tuesday and Wednesday the 16th and 17th, our 8th graders will take the Science, Technology and Engineering test, closing the testing season for the year. Parents should expect to receive the results of the tests in early September 2017.

As we move closer to the end of the school year, your students will be taking final exams/final projects and participating in end of year activities by grade level to celebrate their accomplishments throughout the year. Please consult our calendar posted on our school website for additional details. The Moving on Ceremony is scheduled for June 19, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. Additional details and a calendar of activities leading up to the ceremony will be sent home later in the week. I would like to ask all parents to support and encourage their students to participate in the many end of year trips and activities we have prepared for them.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform all parents that effective Monday the 15th "spinners" will not be allowed in school. While I understand that for some this may be a fidget toy that helps them stay focused, but for many others they have become a major source of distraction in class and other places throughout the school. I ask that you remind your children to leave the toys at home or in their backpacks if they choose to bring them to school. You should also know that for students who use fidget toys for therapeutic reasons and are part of their IEP will be allowed to have other fidget tools such as a stress ball, etc. I thank you for your support in implementing this new policy designed to ensure that all students are focused and placing all their efforts on their academic development.

In closing I want to congratulate our Drama Team and Ms. Teri Shea for their participation and for winning the Gold Medal at the Middle School Drama Festival held at our school two weeks ago. I would also like to remind all parents to please complete the survey sent to you earlier in the month by Panorama Education. Your feedback is very important to us.

I thank you for your continued support.

José Duarte, Principal
Fuller Middle School

PANORAMA
EDUCATION

DON'T
FORGET!

**Parents: Please take a moment to complete the Panorama Education survey.
Thanks to all those who have already completed the survey.**

LIME TEAM

Science: Students in Mrs. Rogan's Science class have been busy observing and classifying rocks in order to understand how they formed. Students are learning about the texture and grain characteristics that are used to classify a rock as sedimentary, igneous or metamorphic, as well as to name the rock. Soon students will be writing a Claim-Evidence-Reasoning explanation about a specific rock.

Social Studies – Mr. Zieky: Students in Mr. Zieky's class have begun a project in which they will act as consultants to a corporation planning to expand their business to Europe. Students will research specific countries and prepare a comprehensive report to present to the "board of directors". Students are enthusiastic about participating in a "real world" project!

Social Studies – Mrs. Bonner: In Mrs. Bonner's Social Studies class, students have been working towards answering the essential question, "How do natural resources affect settlement in Africa?" In order to answer this question students have been learning about the impact of water on the people of South Sudan. Students have read a number of texts, including the novel, *A Long Walk to Water*, about the effects of not having clean drinking water and the initiatives of organizations, such as Water for Sudan, that are finding ways to make clean drinking water available for the people of South Sudan.

Math: Students in Mrs. Hakar's math class are wrapping up our Geometry unit. We explored the area of many different shapes through composition and decomposition, volume and surface area. Our next unit will be Statistics involving analyzing data using different graphical displays including dot plots, histograms and box plots, measures of central tendency and statistical questions.

ELA: In Mrs. Bonner's English Language Arts students have been working towards answering the essential question, "How do people develop and use rules to live by?". In order to answer this question, students have read, analyzed, and reflected on a number of different texts including the novel, *Bud, Not Buddy*, for rules to live by. This unit will culminate next week with students writing a formal piece about their own rules to live by.



CRIMSON TEAM

The Crimson Team came back from April vacation well rested and ready to continue with all the hard work we left off doing prior to break. They transitioned back and began the final preparations for MCAS testing which began on April 26th. During testing, students were task persistent and took advantage of the accommodations that were available to them.

Since the last newsletter there has been quite a lot going on. MCAS alternate assessment portfolios were completed and submitted for scoring. It was exciting for the parents to come and view portfolios and see all the hard work their son/daughter/s' completed from the beginning of the school year. The students work showcased curriculum standards in geometry, ratios and proportional relationships, the number system, writing opinion pieces, developing vocabulary with antonyms, identifying a main idea and details, the five senses, physical and chemical changes, and the weather.

In math, the Red Sox and Patriots have been hard at work continuing with their preparation for MCAS testing. They are working on adding and subtracting negative and positive integers, absolute value, square and cubed roots, Order of Operations, fractions, decimals, percents, ratios and probability, and plotting negative and positive numbers. The Bruins continue their hard work focusing on life skills tasks such as money, number sense, and place value. The Celtics have been working on choosing items on a menu and finding the cost. They then compare their money to the cost to decide if they have enough money to buy lunch.

In Social Studies, the Patriots and Red Sox are learning about text features, and writing an essay using multiple sources. We are learning how to improve our reading comprehension through closely looking at text features and text mapping articles using our topic of early man and ancient history. The Bruins are learning about work, and wants vs. needs as well as completing activities involving life skills such as laundry, eating out at a restaurant, and daily household chores.

In Science, the Bruins are learning about the human body starting with the topic of personal hygiene. The Red Sox group has continued to learn about heredity. This includes learning about DNA, genes, and how living things inherit traits, The Patriots just completed a unit on the human body and are moving on to metabolism and nutrition.

In English Language Art, the Crimson team continues to explore language. Students enjoyed practicing and creating poems and taking part in a poetry reading earlier this month. Students have also, and will continue to, study literary devices that will help them to become better readers and writers. This includes figurative language like rhyming, alliteration, similes, metaphors, onomatopoeia, and hyperbole. Your Fuller Falcons have also been exploring language by continuing to study synonyms, antonyms, text features such as titles and subtitles, and by comparing and contrasting two topics. Furthermore, we have been highlighting a "prefix of the week". Be sure to ask your child what the prefix of the week is this week!

In the area of Social Skills, the Celtics in B31 have been spending time with some 6th graders from the Lime Team, participating in interviewing and other social activities. This has been an exciting and successful inclusion opportunity for our students!

The Crimson Teams Ethnic Food Day is tentatively scheduled for June 8th. More information to follow.

BLUE TEAM

It's hard to believe the end of the year is almost upon us as we near the final weeks of the third trimester. It's been a pleasure to spend our days with the Blue Team students, and we've enjoyed watching them grow and mature, both socially and academically over the year. We're proud of their accomplishments as they've persevered and worked through the challenges of eighth grade. In addition, we hope your child leaves the Blue Team with some fond memories of their time spent with us.

In Mrs. Sullivan's Language Arts classes, students finished reading *To Kill A Mockingbird*, and have now begun their final writing piece for this unit. They chose from a variety of prompts focusing on the major themes discussed throughout the novel. Soon students will begin the final text of the year, William Shakespeare's, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Wrestling with Shakespearean verse, while puzzling through the conflict and themes of this romantic comedy is an exciting challenge for our eighth graders.

Students in Ms Cezar's Science classes are exploring exciting concepts in the Motion and Forces units. In addition, the students are also working very hard reviewing and preparing for the upcoming MCAS test by practicing using past tests. After MCAS ends, the students will then focus on finals to demonstrate (and celebrate) their learning as the year comes to a close.

The students in Ms. Virdinlia's Social Studies classes have spent much time delving deep into the primary sources of the founding fathers and making sense of the complexities involved in developing a government structure for a new nation. Additionally, the students took on roles of Supreme Court Justices, reviewed actual court cases, and used the Constitution to write majority and minority opinions that argued the reasoning for their decisions. The U.S. History curriculum will end with the building and expansion of the nation westward and causes of the Civil War. Students will also complete their History Detective projects through a formal presentation of learning celebration for their peers. Parents and guardians will be invited, as well.

OPAL TEAM

Math: Students have been working on their geometry skills and developing an understanding of what it means to look at the volume and surface area of a three dimensional shape. We will be moving into statistics and probability next and exploring batting averages, survey questions, and multiple ways that data can be represented in a visual. This week we received a package in the mail from Food Network! They recognized that we sent them letters and copies of our Food Truck project that we have been working on all year, and sent us a year's worth of Food Network magazines. The students have been enjoying reading them and looking for exciting recipes to try at home with their friends and family.

Science: To end our curriculum in Earth Science students worked on their rock albums, which some students even presented at the poem festival. Now we're moving on to the Astronomy unit and Opal students are very excited about the upcoming solar car project. Between moon phases and eclipses, students will be exploring the power of the Sun when they build a self-propelled solar car.

ELA: After studying "Rules to Live By" through Bud, Not Buddy, "If" and a speech written by Steve Jobs, Opal United students are creating their own Rules to Live By and writing narratives for their own rules. We will be ending our year with a Civil Rights unit. Students will be reading Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry and other selected novels about the Civil Rights Movement. Students will continue creating choice reading responses that allow them to show their understanding in different, individualized ways.

TANGERINE TEAM

Where has the time gone? The Tangerine Team is mystified at the fact we are already entering the month of May. Regardless of how close we are getting to the end of the school year, the Tangerine students are still busy bees; working hard to show all of the knowledge they have acquired so far this year. The Tangerine students have wrapped up their ELA MCAS, where they typed away to complete four essays in two days. We are extremely proud of their stamina, effort, and perseverance. They will be ending the year with the novel The Giver and will be writing their own "I Believe" statements that they will send to their 8th grade teachers. In Math class, students are on to their next unit: Geometry. Due to some reconfiguration of units, all students are looking at 2-Dimensional and 3-Dimensional shapes. They are gearing up to be able to calculate how much wrapping paper would be needed to wrap a present, and how much space is available for a present inside of a container. Students were notified about their placement for Math classes next year. Those students who were placed into Algebra 1 are working to complete an online assignment that is due May 26th. If your student has been placed into this course, continue to check-in with them about their progress and ask them what topics they have been working on. We are sure they would love to discuss the work they have been doing with you.

Tangerine students are currently learning about the gross and microscopic anatomy of the following systems: nervous system, musculoskeletal system, circulatory system, respiratory system, digestive system, integumentary system, immune system, lymphatic system and the endocrine system. Students will strengthen critical thinking skills while experiencing the laboratory component that parallels and reinforces concepts through the use of anatomical models, histological slides, and skeletal materials. It has been emphasized to the students that when learning a new subject it is important to keep up with the course material and develop a habit of reviewing your coursework on a daily basis. Study skills and tips that we continue to implement are: study early and frequently; understand your best learning style; budget your time; create a suitable study space; create associations/analogies; take detailed, legible notes; and study actively. Repetition is an important factor that will contribute to overall success. Studying new and previous material improves your understanding of the subject matter. "Prior Planning Prevents Poor Performance" - USA Military Adage

We are currently in the middle of our unit on Rome! The students started the unit learning how Rome was heavily influenced by the Etruscans the Greeks, and how this is reflected in many aspects of Roman civilization. As we venture further, students will learn about Roman Gods/Goddesses, good and bad Emperors, The legacy of Julius Caesar, the Punic Wars, and the decline of the Roman Empire. As we end our Rome on unit, there will be a lot of interactive notebook projects, and I hope you enjoy looking through them at home! Our goal is to explore the rise of Christianity and Islam, the Byzantine Empire and move into Medieval Europe.

Fuller will be hosting its first annual Oxfam America Hunger Banquet on May 21st. A flyer about what a hunger banquet is will be going home with your student very soon. My 7th grade students will be hosting the event, so I hope many of them sign up! It will be an event for all Fuller students, families and the community. For more information about what an Oxfam America Hunger Banquet is, check out their website at oxfamamerica.org.

GREEN TEAM

The preparation for MCAS continues! In Mr. Cardarelli's math classes, we are in process of tying together all of the loose ends for the year, piecing together each unit and how they fit together in the big picture. In the integrated math classrooms, students are linking together the concepts of slope and rates by analyzing word problems, tables, graphs, and linear equations. The Algebra 1 group is taking all of their gained knowledge from the course and applying it to geometry concepts including linking three-dimensional solids to functions.

We have been very busy in ELA. In Ms. Gonzalez's class, we just finished *To Kill a Mockingbird* and completed our argument essays. Last week we took the ELA MCAS. Everyone worked hard and we are excited to see the results! This week we started reading *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare. This play is a great way for students to end their 8th grade year because they have grown quite comfortable with one another and, therefore, have fun with the in class performances of different scenes.

In Mrs. Hunt's Guided Academics class, students have been working hard on their *To Kill a Mockingbird* final assessment. Students have been incorporating more complex sentences into their writing, as well as, using direct evidence from a text to support their ideas. Also, they have been practicing math skills such as working with linear equations, as well as, staying current with their science and SS work. Students in Mr. Zieky's class are exploring the origins of political parties in the United States. In the coming days they will be holding a class debate between the Jefferson led Democratic-Republicans and the Hamilton led Federalists. Students will also be comparing the foreign and domestic issues of the 1790s with modern day affairs.

Students in Ms. Gallagher's science classes are testing their speed skills while timing how fast they can hop, skip and walk a course of 10 meters. They then are asked to use this calculation to determine their times if they were to go 20 meters or if they were to hop for one hour how far they could travel. We are also verifying whether Sir Isaac Newton was onto something with his three laws of motion. We tested each law by doing various activities in class. The students were able to witness inertia, prove that more force was actually needed to move an object a distance when a force was applied and if they blew up a balloon and let it bounce into a wall it certainly did bounce back!

The Green Students are ready to take their MCAS exams as we have reviewed grade 6, 7 and 8th grade concepts using our voting response game. There is no doubt in their teachers' mind that they will all succeed on their test this year.



Math: Students in A block will soon be finishing the Geometry Unit where they worked with perimeter, area, surface area, and volume of 2 and 3 dimensional shapes. They also learned about the characteristics of triangles and angle relationships. The students in C and G block math wrapped up the Percent Unit when we came back from April Break and immediately dove into the Geometry Unit. All students will end the year with our most hands on unit, Probability and Statistics.

Science: Students in Mr. Faller's science class have just finished a unit on the human body. The focus was on three systems: the skeletal, muscular and nervous systems. Lessons revolved around learning about the structures and functions of each system. Students also completed a four paragraph compare and contrast essay on voluntary and involuntary muscles.

Currently, students are now learning about the cardiovascular, digestive, and immune systems. Again, the focus is on the structures and functions of these systems. We will soon be writing another compare and contrast essay on arteries and veins.

Language Arts: We are proud to announce that our students put forth a great deal of hard work and effort towards the MCAS testing. In class we are picking up where we left off with our Civil Rights Unit. The students are reading the rest of *Warriors Don't Cry* in the next couple of weeks and completing their final project for the unit. For our final project the students will be assuming the role of a character in the book and creating a talk show skit. By doing so the students will practice their speaking and listening skills as well as practicing the skills of identifying perspective within a novel. We are excited for the students to demonstrate their creativity and knowledge of the novel!

Social Studies: We are currently in the middle of our unit on Rome! The students started the unit learning how Rome was heavily influenced by the Etruscans the Greeks, and how this is reflected in many aspects of Roman civilization. As we venture further, students will learn about Roman Gods/Goddesses, good and bad Emperors, The legacy of Julius Caesar, the Punic Wars, and the decline of the Roman Empire. As we end our Rome on unit, there will be a lot of interactive notebook projects, and I hope you enjoy looking through them at home! Our goal is to explore the rise of Christianity and Islam, the Byzantine Empire and move into Medieval Europe.



SPECIALS

Our 8th grade Tech Ed students have taken on a new endeavor. With the dual goals of improving Fuller while also using what they have learned in 3 years of engineering activities, our students have been designing and building solutions to some problems submitted by our own teachers. A few examples of projects designed and made by our students during Trimester 2 are:

- A collapsible graffiti easel for Mr. Harvey's Graffiti Club
- A poster storage stand for Ms. Virdinia
- Two portable painting displays for Mrs. DiCicco
- A scrap wood holder for Mrs. Oliver
- A magazine display for Mrs. Ordova's office

The students currently in Tech Ed will begin their jobs at the beginning of May. Stay tuned for their updates!

On a separate note, now that Spring is upon us, if you find that you are cleaning out your basement or garage and you have a bicycle you are willing to donate to Fuller Tech Ed, it would be greatly appreciated. The bikes do not have to be in perfect working condition. They will not be ridden; they will be used to demonstrate the systems within a bicycle that help it to work. Any questions, feel free to email Mrs. Oliver at joliver@framingham.k12.ma.us. Thank you in advance!






LIBRARY MEDIA

As summer approaches, the library is working to prepare students for their summer reading assignments. A packet will be available online shortly outlining the project. Students will be required to read two books: one from a required list and another of their choice.

The library WIN Block and students from previous WIN Blocks are working on book talks and book trailers to spread the word and to encourage reading.

Take a moment to look at the chart below. Reading is incredibly important and can be beneficial in more than just ELA courses. Encourage your child to read at home. It will make a difference.

Why read 20 minutes at home?

Student A Reads	Student B Reads	Student C Reads
20 minutes per day	5 minutes per day	1 minute per day
3,600 minutes per school year	180 minutes per school year	180 minutes per school year
1,800,000 words per year	282,000 words per year	8,000 words per year
		
Scores in the 90th percentile on standardized tests.	Scores in the 50th percentile on standardized tests.	Scores in the 10th percentile on standardized tests.

If they start reading for 20 minutes per night in Kindergarten, by the end of 6th grade, Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, Student B will have read for 12 school days, and Student C will have read for 3.

Want to be a better reader? Simply read.

**FULLER
MIDDLE
SCHOOL**

**31 Flagg Drive
Framingham, MA
01702**

**Phone: (508) 620-4956
Fax: (508) 628-1308**

Follow us on Twitter

@Fuller_Falcons