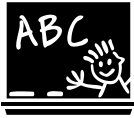


## Team Fusion News

December 3, 2010



### Announcements

Please read over this newsletter, sign the attached portion and return it to school with your child (if you received a hardcopy), or **email me a reply if you received an electronic version.** Thanks!!

### ***"Quality of Work"***

As we enter our second third of the year, I am buckling down on my expectations for quality of student work. Students have been reminded that they need to take pride in what they do and that I expect their work to be handed in in top quality. We discussed what that looks like this week as a group. I expect students to turn in work that:

- Is legible and aligned with margins on both left and right (no more pizza pie paragraphs).
- Begin with capitals and end with punctuation (periods, question marks, or exclamation points)
- Shows responsibility in spelling using the patterns we've studied in school and spelling key words that are given in a text correctly. For instance, if reading a passage on Native Americans, I would expect that these key words would consistently be spelled correctly as they are presented repeatedly in the text for students to reference.
- Is neat and organized to show thinking (math)
- Has their name on it.

I will no longer accept work that does not meet this standard.

### Science

We have begun studying Force and Motion in science. Our essential questions are:

- How are motion, speed, and velocity related?
- How can the laws of motion be applied?
- How do machines help people do work?

This is a unit of inquiry. Students will be conducting a number of experiments and designing experiments on their own. The timing of this unit is very appropriate for students' **voluntary** participation in the school Science Fair (information went home in Wednesday's River Raider) happening on March 10. Any efforts related to scientific inquiry that are put toward a science fair project will count towards my assessment of students on this unit. This is a great way to earn some extra credit!!!

### Social Studies

We have shifted gears in Social Studies as well. We have started our next unit on Indigenous Peoples of the Western Hemisphere. Our essential questions for this unit of study are:

- How do geography, climate, and natural resources affect the way indigenous people lived?
- What is culture?
- In what ways do indigenous groups vary?

We will be doing a class research project on this subject, taking a closer look at the people who lived in the regions we studied during the first trimester. Students will have the opportunity to show what they know through a project completed at school.

### Change for Change

Browns River Middle School has decided to help out the people of Uganda with a change drive called **Change for Change** through the Invisible Children Schools for Schools program. This program helps construct schools in northern Uganda while supplying students with clean water, books and tuition. (They also develop teachers and technology for them.)

We have a collection can in our classroom and students, teachers, and parents are challenged to bring in the most money during the weeks of November 15-19 and November 29- December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Thanks for your support.

## **Conferences**

I have posted a new conference date on the class website for those of you who were scheduled to meet Thursday this week and couldn't due to the school cancellation. There are still a couple of time slots open on the other nights next week as well. Conferences are scheduled for 25 minutes and we need to stick to that time allotment as my conferences are back-to-back. If necessary, please contact me directly via phone or email to sign up for a slot.

Fall Conferences – 12/8/10

<http://fusioninteractivecalendar.pleasebringit.com/public/8i4VPYo+cnA>

Fall Conferences - 12/9/10

[fusioninteractivecalendar.pleasebringit.com/public/kiyapMGIOYY](http://fusioninteractivecalendar.pleasebringit.com/public/kiyapMGIOYY)

Fall Conferences 12/10/10

<http://fusioninteractivecalendar.pleasebringit.com/public/vksEEv2+NYo>

**Have a great weekend!**