

Rye Junior High 6th Grade Newsletter October 30th, 2016  
Merrowvista and Harvestfest



## Fun things are happening in 6th grade!

Merrowvista was an absolutely amazing experience. Students learned about team building, ecology and the environment, how to work with one another and how to be their best selves. In fact, the motto there is: "My own self, at my very best, all the time!" The kids exemplified that at Merrowvista and continue to do so back at school. We are keeping this spirit of self-reflection, kindness, and collaboration going on our team with our weekly team building times and RNQs (ask your child what this means). Harvestfest was an opportunity to enjoy the beautiful woods maintained by the students and build our Rye community. Thanks for coming!

You can see more Merrowvista photos on our team page!



This week we have started working with Mean, Median, and Mode, and next week we will transition into parts of a circle. The pre-teaching of these concepts leads to a great hands on unit called "Pretty Big

Pumpkins". Students will work in small groups to collect data on a pumpkin, part of which involves sawing the pumpkin in half (which they love!). Using class data from each pumpkin students will calculate radii, diameter, circumference, and all of the means of central tendency surrounding the different aspects of the pumpkin. They will then create a data sheet that is placed on the back side of a seed packet that each student designs in school.

Seeds from the pumpkins will go into each packet and will either be sold at a school event to help raise money for the community garden or will be planted in the school garden for next year's math unit. There will also be a Pretty Big Pumpkins logo competition that is held where the winning logo is embroidered onto various types of apparel that are available for students, parents, and staff to purchase if they wish to. *\*If you have a pumpkin that is still good shape still after the weekend and are willing to donate please send your child in with it on or before Tuesday, November 1st. Thank you!*

### Mr. Scogin's SS

Students are currently working on a novel study project where they read a book that takes place somewhere in Latin America and research a historical event or issue that happens in the book (this part happens in ICT class). Additionally students are researching geographical, historical, and social information from the country that their book takes place in. All of the research information will culminate in a Glogster which is an online, interactive poster that each student will create.

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## Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

We are working hard in ICT! Students have been "filling their tool belts" with tech and research skills. By now, students have shared their "Like a Boss" videos with our online portfolio tool, SeeSaw. They will be sharing at least one more artifact this trimester with you using this platform. All 6th grade groups are researching in their social studies classes and ICT lessons are supporting that research. We use a research model called *Independent Investigation Method* (IIM), which breaks a big project into seven steps that are manageable and structured. This method teaches "scholarly" research techniques to help students avoid plagiarism and create unique products. Along the way, they are using a variety of web applications and subscriptions to complete and share their product. At this point in the trimester, students with missing work are expected to see me and make a plan for getting things done. I am available throughout the week either before school, during most recesses, during 6th grade work blocks and some afternoons. Encourage your child to see me if there are any questions.

All RJH students will be voting in our Student Mock Election Friday, November 4, 2016. In our attempt to simulate the voting experience, students are expected to carve out time during their lunch/recess time to visit the polls. Before then, we will be reviewing a sample ballot so that we have an informed electorate at RJH. Our results will be announced at the end of the day and shared with the national Mock Election program. Election information for students can be found on the [RJH Library webpage](#).

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## Music

Students are learning to clap the **JUBA** and to read musical notes and rhythms. Last week we labeled notes on **Lesson 1**, and we read and **clapped simple rhythms**. We learned some new **drum beats** and played a rhythm game on the ipads called **Rhythm Cat**. This week we are singing the song Waltzing Matilda and learning to play it on the piano. For more information, see the music website at [www.musicatryejrhigh.weebly.com](http://www.musicatryejrhigh.weebly.com)

## Language

Please see Mrs. Brown's **website** to find out what is happening in Spanish and French class.



Students are traveling around the world learning about the world's diverse culture, history, and geography. They were also introduced to their "big project" where they will explore a country in detail discovering the history and culture of their country through how the inhabitants eat, play, and create. Ask your child about his or her country!



Student personal narratives are really turning into quality pieces. They are using checklists and rubrics to ensure that they are proficient in the areas of leads, organization, transitions, grade-level appropriate punctuation and grammar, dialogue, and conclusions.

Science: To transition between subjects, and between Merrowvista, we have been watching "How the Earth was made" in preparation for our current unit on how the layers of the Earth help us understand how our planet has changed over time. This week students will produce a model of the Earth's physical and chemical layers in preparation for a quiz at the end of the week. During this time they will also investigate how scientists date the age of rocks and the evidence used to determine where the continents were in the past.



**Our Author's Celebration will occur November 18th during your child's scheduled ELA time. You are invited!**

Pink Class 8:45-9:35

Gold Class 9:35-10:25

Blue Class 2:00-2:50

Please make sure your child is reading a "just right" book every night for 20-30 minutes.

Soon, we will begin a novel study that will be explored during and after school.

In social studies, we have moved out of Europe and are heading into Russia. Students have also begun researching their countries and will be creating a meal and tasting menu that showcases all that they have learned.

"The social act of eating, is part of how we become human, as much as speaking and taking care of ourselves. Learning to eat is learning to become human."--Richard Welk

#### **Essential Questions:**

- How does a country's food tell us about its people, who they are, familial and social units, culture, values, and beliefs?
- How is a country's food influenced by its geography; the land and where it is located in proximity to other countries?
- How is a country's food influenced by its history? How can we trace the important events in the country's history through its food?

To take advantage of the beautiful fall weather, classes have also been walking into the Wedgewood project & Parsons Woods for focuses journaling activities. We will conduct these at least once a month throughout the year to track seasonal changes and to encourage observation/description skills. I will be reminding students to have proper attire and footwear for these outings as the temperature drops.

Social Studies: Mr. Bissonnette's class as completed our investigation of South Asia's geography and unique climate just in time to begin gathering information for our research project on the Arts. During the next few weeks, with the guidance of Ms. Coombs ICT class, students will be researching a unique art form from their country. As we start to discover the diverse culture and religions of India, classes will also be working on describing the chosen art form for a PowerPoint type presentation.

General Information: Merrowvista photos can now be found on the 6th Grade Team website.

- What are the religious or spiritual beliefs that created your country's food culture?

Feel free to contact me at any time at [efleming@sau50.org](mailto:efleming@sau50.org). You can also access my [website](#) to see what we are learning.

**Sports information:** **6 - 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls** will have tryouts November 10<sup>th</sup> from 3:15 until around 4:30. 6<sup>th</sup> grade usually has it's own team but there were only 2 6<sup>th</sup> graders that signed up so they will play with the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. There will be an A and a B team. Anyone wishing to play needs to show up to the tryouts. The coaches for the A team are Ian Valcich and Mackenzie (Mac) Kraines from UNH. Their emails are [ijr6@wildcats.unh.edu](mailto:ijr6@wildcats.unh.edu) and [mrk1012@wildcats.unh.edu](mailto:mrk1012@wildcats.unh.edu) respectfully. The B team coach is Bradley Haynes [bch2001@wildcats.unh.edu](mailto:bch2001@wildcats.unh.edu) also from UNH.