

English – Literature News from Mrs. Weisser

6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Spelling – Students will be working with the words from Units 20-24.

Spelling Tests – The process for the middle school spelling tests has changed. The students will receive their spelling words on Fridays and have a variety of activities working with them throughout the following week. They will have pretests on Wednesdays and the final test on the following Friday. The students will be given the definitions of the words they need to spell (not just the word said out loud). This promotes mastery learning of their spelling words and higher order thinking. As in the past, if students receive 100% on their pretest, they are exempt from the Friday test.

6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Grammar – Students will be working with adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections in each grade appropriate textbook.

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Literature – Students will continue reading stories and poems in their Reading book. They will begin a novel study on *Tuck Everlasting* and will have various assignments and projects dealing with the novel.

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Literature – Students will finish their novel study on *The Outsiders* and begin *A Walk Across America*. This novel study includes a fun and interesting, cross-country newspaper project. Students will also continue reading stories and poems in their Language of Literature books.

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Literature – Students will finish their novel study on *What Though the Odds (Hailey Scott's Journey of Faith and Triumph)*. Students will continue reading stories and poems in their Language of Literature books. Later in the month students will begin a novel study of Tuesdays with Morrie. This is a novel of life lessons by Mitch Albom.

Some additional tidbits...

Students will be given writing prompts Monday through Thursday that will be completed in their individual writing journals (composition notebooks). Then on Fridays, they will edit one of their entries from the week, make corrections, and update the entry.

Mystery Author of the Week

Students will have the chance to earn extra credit points each week with the Mystery Author of the Week. Each week, I will be listing titles of a particular author on the board (one each day), from least to most famous. Students may turn in one guess each day until they guess correctly. Monday will earn them 5 points, Tuesday will earn them 4 points, etc. This is a fun way for them to get to know classic authors and their novels.

ELA Amazing Race

The second half of the year, the middle school grades will be participating in the ELA (English-Language Arts) Amazing Race. I have posted 7 clues/tasks for each student to complete that are all English Language Arts tasks for extra credit. Once their entire class has completed a task, that grade may move on to their next clue/task. The first grade to finish will win a special surprise. Good luck to all of them!