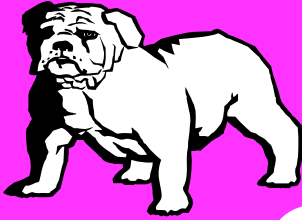


ALBRITTON JUNIOR
HIGH SCHOOL



Patriot Publications

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

OCTOBER 2009

Welcome to the Patriot Team!

This is our first formal edition of the Patriot Publication Newsletter. In each publication, we will share information about middle school curriculum and adolescents. We firmly believe that a strong connection between school and home is a vital part of our children's success.

It is our belief that learning experiences should:

Address their diverse intellectual, physical, social and emotional development

Help them make sense of themselves and the world around them

Connect curriculum to life in the real world

Involve them in rich and significant knowledge about the world

Open doors to new ideas that spark curiosity, the desire to explore and wonder

Challenge students and encourage them to take maximum advantage of educational opportunities

Develop caring and responsible citizens as life-long learners

We appreciate your continued support in helping us guide your child in the learning process.

Ms. Pozniak-Robins

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Patriot Agenda Information

Please note that at the bottom of the agenda there is a place for parent and teacher communication. Teachers will notate behavior in this area, so you may monitor your child's progress in that respect.

The agenda is "coded" in this fashion:

- 1 uniform violation
- 2 not prepared
- 3 tardy
- 4 off task/disruption
- 5 missing homework
- 6 inappropriate behavior in the hall/locker area
- 7 other

Additional information:

- If a student receives 3 or more infractions in one week, parent communication is required.
- On the next occasion a student receives three or more infractions, the student receives after school detention. The parent will receive a letter from the advisory teacher of this notification.
- On the third offense, the student is referred to administration.
- If the student has more than six infractions in one week, the student will also be referred to administration.
- If the agenda is lost, the student receives automatic detention. The parent will receive a letter from the advisory teacher of this notification.

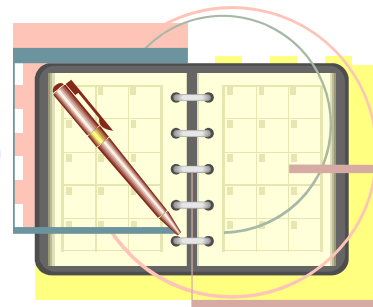
Student Led Conferences

“Education’s purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one.” — Malcolm S. Forbes

On 13 November, Albritton Junior High School will hold Parent/Teacher Conferences. In coordination with this special time, all Patriot students will be conducting student-led conferences with parents through advisory classes. These conferences will provide an opportunity for each student to reflect upon his/her successes during the 1st quarter in all core subjects and provide you with examples of what he/she has learned this quarter through a portfolio discussion.

The student led conference will have several objectives:

- Promote student accountability/ownership for learning
- Enhance parent/child communication
- Increase parent involvement
- Increase student/parent awareness of progress and growth
- Incorporate portfolio management and organization
- Promote school-home partnership
- Build self-esteem, pride, and responsibility
- Share knowledge/ “show off”



Students will share their agendas, progress reports, and artifacts from all core subject areas and reflections. Following the conference, the students will work with you to create an improvement plan for 2nd quarter and complete a reflection on the conference. Teachers will be available following the student led conference for any additional discussion.

If you have any questions or concerns about the student-led conference, please do not hesitate to contact any of your student’s teachers at 907-0201.



Reading and Writing are in the Air!

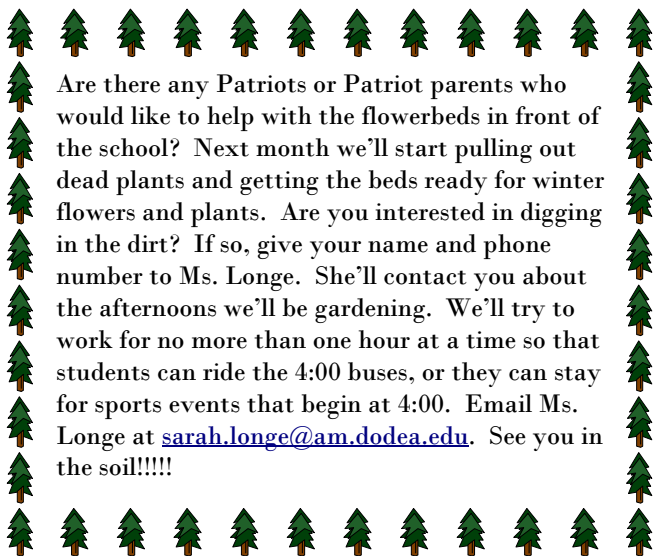
Mrs. Kirkland’s classes have studied the elements of fiction and have just finished *Stargirl*, a novel about the social pressures of high school and the need to “fit in”. It also closely examines our true interconnection and the respect we should have for one another and nature. They wrote an essay to demonstrate their understanding of the novel as well as participated in a talk show and skit project. Next on the agenda will be learning about their multiple intelligences!

Language Arts



- End of 1st Quarter—28 October
- Student Led Conferences—13 November

Mrs. Vance's Language Arts classes have been studying the elements of fiction through a variety of literary genres, including short stories and poetry. Mrs. Vance is reading Neil Gaiman's *The Graveyard Book*, winner of the 2009 Newbery Medal, aloud for fifteen minutes a day. Students are also studying nonfiction essays, both historical and autobiographical. Students are writing several times a week and are practicing grammar and conventions through journal writing. We will begin a science fiction unit next week, starting with two short stories. We will then read, as a class, the science fiction novel *The Last Book in the Universe*. The emphasis is on reading and enhancing students' enjoyment of all kinds of literature. We are working on improving reading comprehension. Students have some time for sustained silent reading in class and must have a library book with them every day. Often, homework is simply to read, read, read! Mrs. Vance's classes will write their own science fiction stories as they are working on this unit.



Are there any Patriots or Patriot parents who would like to help with the flowerbeds in front of the school? Next month we'll start pulling out dead plants and getting the beds ready for winter flowers and plants. Are you interested in digging in the dirt? If so, give your name and phone number to Ms. Longe. She'll contact you about the afternoons we'll be gardening. We'll try to work for no more than one hour at a time so that students can ride the 4:00 buses, or they can stay for sports events that begin at 4:00. Email Ms. Longe at sarah.longe@am.dodea.edu. See you in the soil!!!!

The Science Scoop



Science Corner: Ms. Poz-Rob

Welcome to science where events are always happening!

The DoDEA Middle School Science Standards have been revised to focus on concepts in depth rather than breadth.



We started the year with investigating forces and motion, which concentrated on the concepts of speed, velocity, inertia, momentum, and the affects of gravity on moving objects. Students have been actively engaged by conducting experiments that require them to apply math skills and newly acquired knowledge to hands-on experiences.



Students will also design and conduct their own experiments in science groups to depict the concepts connected with force and motion.



Our first quarter project, Current News Articles, was a great success. Each student presented one favorite article in class so that all students could benefit from the research.



Please feel free to browse through their 5 subject science notebooks for a daily description of what we have done in class. Having the notebook does cut down on the chances of losing papers. In addition, students are also learning how to write their notes in Cornell Note Style, which has had success in helping students with organization.

As a side note, our textbook can be accessed online. Go to <http://www.glencoe.com/sec/science/ose/index.html>

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