

# Begich Middle School Science

May is National Hamburger Month.

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*Periodic updates about what's happening in the science department at our new school. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give me a call. Thanks, Scott Kluever.*

*On May 9<sup>th</sup>, Robby Bear, Dave Gillam, Trisha Herminghaus, Gail Raymond and I met at the Boniface Center and continued our IS 6<sup>th</sup> curriculum discussions.*

I believe that our science department is committed to using 'science notebooks' in our curriculum. As such, Robby and Trisha have set aside 1000 copies of the science notebooks that are created at KCC. All that needs to be done is to have Ms. Fischer set up a truck transfer! ☺



#### **To do list for Jeanne:**

- Set up truck transfer for 1000 science notebooks from the curriculum dept. at Boniface to Begich MS. (Boniface needs to move them ASAP)
- Double check to see that the "Great Body Shop" has been ordered for fall.
- Notify Chris Lynch that it is okay to set aside an area on campus for science experiments. (see below) I've talked with Chris and he'll go with it once he hears from Jeanne.

#### **Department Discussions:**

1. As an entire department, grades 6 through 8, I would like to see us develop a standard where the first 6-9 days of classes in the fall would be dedicated to mini lessons focused on measurement, graphing and record keeping. These skills are used throughout the school year. Students need a strong foundation in these skills to help build successes in coming months. This is a discussion for the near future.

2. I've talked with Jeanne a bit and have run this idea by Chris Lynch, Robby Bear and others. I'd like to see an enclosure created near the creek dedicated to the science department. Such an enclosure could be divided into smaller sections that would be adopted by different grade levels. Through grants and other sources, we could plant specific native species and over time, record data on a wide variety of environmental factors. (simple growth observations, bird life, butterflies, insects etc...) If you have suggestions on a comprehensive use for our creek and possible enclosure, please let me know so we can pursue funding sources.

**Possible funding:** Anchorage Waterways Council, Anchorage Water and Conservation District, Lowes, Home Depot, Alaska Assn of Conservation Districts, Captain Planet, Grants.gov, National Wildlife Federation, Watchable Wildlife, UAA Cooperative Extension, BP, Conoco. More?

**Sixth Grade Discussions:**

We'll need to acquire the 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher's editions for the quarterly subjects of

1. There Is No Away
2. Astronomy
3. Structures
4. Pulleys and Levers

It is very likely that the fourth quarter will be combined with the new grant in ASD: Universal Design for Learning. (UDL) I do not have all of the information about the UDL requirements, but I'll be sure to give them to you when they are available.

I believe that we'll be getting several trade books to use for the sixth grade curriculum. We may also be purchasing some of the titles and house them in the Begich library.

Gail Raymond is still trying to establish a method of gathering the consumable materials needed for the sixth grade curriculum. She's checking with Tami and will get back to us very soon I'm sure. ☺

Sixth Grade draft outline of instruction (represented by Weeks beginning in \_\_\_\_\_)

August 20  
 August 27  
 September 3  
 September 10  
 September 17  
 September 24  
 October 1  
 October 8

There Is No Away  
 21 lessons plus application and investigations, technology that produces a product, field trip to the landfill and waste water treatment plant.  
  
 Qtr ends on October 19th

October 15  
 October 22  
 October 29  
 November 5  
 November 12  
 November 19  
 November 26  
 December 3  
 December 10

Astronomy  
 21 lessons plus application and investigations, technology web quest that accompanies the Planet Walk, Planet Walk field trip, technology related product.  
  
 Qtr ends on December 21st

January 7  
 January 14  
 January 21  
 January 28  
 February 4  
 February 11  
 February 18  
 February 25  
 March 3

Structures  
 21 lessons plus application and investigations, projects in collaboration with the "Create a Community" challenge in Anchorage, Engineering Week activities/projects, possible field trip to UAA on Saturday.  
  
 Qtr ends on March 7th

March 17  
March 24  
March 31  
April 7  
April 14  
April 21  
April 28  
May 5  
May 12

Pulleys and Levers and UDL curriculum

15 days of Pulleys and Levers  
technology project  
Rest of quarter is for UDL curriculum

Qtr ends on May 19th

Possible consideration for sixth grade, Science Fair or a sixth grade camp! Obviously we need more discussion about these options.