

Sonoma Charter Bulletin

November 26 - 30, 2018

Coaching Notes for the Week...

Marian Rasmussen continues her focus on helping teachers get Progress Data into their new *Illuminate* Gradebooks by Wednesday so we can mail printed Progress Reports to parents this Friday.

Deena Reyes will be here Mon, Wed, and Fri to help teachers with Performance Task Data and rolling out the 2nd Trimester **Science Research Lab Unit** linked to our new **Step-Up Reading Program**.

MON (11-26) RainbowDance in PlayBox

4:45pm Boys Basketball vs. Healdsburg
Location: 4074 Stony Point Rd, Santa Rosa

5:30pm **Science Explorers Club** (MPR)
Guest presenter, Rachel Freed, will teach us all about **research** -- we'll learn about hypotheses, and discuss what we should do to conduct our experiments. *This connects perfectly to the 2nd Trimester Science Research Unit* all students will be participating in -- part of our new **Step-Up Reading Program**.

TUE (11-27)

8:30a - 2p Marc at Leadership Forum (Santa Rosa)

WED (11-28)

1:30 - 2:15pm Student Leadership Mtg (MPR)

1:30 - 3:00pm Teachers work time dedicated to completing Progress Report data entry in *Illuminate* (Marian and Deena avail to assist)

THU (11-29)

3:15 - 4:15pm Spirit Squad practice (MPR)

FRI (11-30)

5:30 - 7:00pm **BINGO Fun Night!** (MPR)

Join us for the **first Family Fun Night of the Year!** We will be serving a pizza slice, a cookie and a drink meal for \$3 or 2 meals for \$5! **Look for more information and pre-order meal forms headed your way!**

Something new sing to a familiar tune...

"I can **breathe** clearly now that the rain has come,
We can be **relieved** now that the fires are out,
I think I can make it now **without a mask**,
It's going to be a bright, bright, bright, **sunshiny day!**"

We are all returning to school thankful for many things...
Time with family and friends • Rest & Health • Clear skies
and the return to safe conditions for California communities!

Notes for our new Step-Up Reading Program...

5 Components of Our Step-Up Reading Program:

- 1) A Standards-Based Instructional System.
- 2) On-going professional development of the entire staff.
- 3) Development strong partnership between school and home.
- 4) Student centered learning climate.
- 5) Shared leadership to drive innovation.

Measurable Implementation by Trimester -- Our Step-Up Reading Program is being implemented over a two-year cycle. On **November 26th** we will be introducing our 2nd Trimester Unit of Study: **Science Research Lab**. Each Unit comes with six to eight bins of books to develop literacy skills.

- Trimester 1: **Unit 1 - Literacy Labs**
- Trimester 2: **Unit 2 - Science Research Lab**
- Trimester 3: **Unit 3 - Genre Studies Lab**

Research Labs have a science focus and are intended to be nine weeks long. We have 15 weeks to implement the Research Lab so teachers can focus on the research questions to explicitly develop research skills and reading informational text. The additional allotted time also ensures enough time to cover the presentation of each student's project.

Teachers create a Research Center in each room with 9 new Book Bins!

The non-fiction research texts are used in the classroom. The books have been marked with a sticker on the back cover as well as the grade level written in the back cover to identify what set they go to. Students may read the research texts during *Reader's Choice Time*.



8th grade teacher Jason Page reviews Science Research Lab Unit instructional strategies with Step-Up Reading Coach, Amy Jackson, during her Nov 6th visit to SCS. All teachers get weekly support from our Literacy Coach, Deena Reyes, and Math Coach, Marian Rasmussen.

Teachers will be beginning the Science Research Unit with the end in mind.

Teachers will present the final project rubric along with project expectations to students during Week-1. Together, each class will establish a vision of what the end looks like from the beginning and create an excitement for sharing their hard work with the larger Sonoma Charter community.

Teachers will be doing the project with the students support learning by:

- Making anchor charts of the organizers and showing their sample work all along the way.
- Demonstrating thinking and how to learn from what you read.
- Model how to use the Final Project Organizers for writing.

Teachers will also be sending home letters and posting updates to their websites sharing what students are learning. Get ready to be amazed!

2 nd Grade Bugs in their ecosystems
3 rd Grade WEATHER AND CLIMATE
4 th Grade Ecosystems
5 th Grade ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS
6 th Grade GEOLOGY
7 th Grade HUMAN BODY
8 th Grade Environmental Studies

FOUR Questions Teachers Are Always Asking...

- 1) What do we want our students to know and be able to do?
- 2) How will we know when they are successful?
- 3) What do we do when students struggle with new learning?
- 4) What do we do when students are ready for a challenge?