



The Trail to 7th Grade

We are blazing trails this year, not finding paths or carrying our backpacks. We are so lucky to have wacky, weird and awesome teachers this year. With our little, cute, cuddly mascots, Puddy and Kosmo walking behind us, we are the best 7th grade team ever. Just being on the trailblazer team says that being in 7th grade is going to rock your socks. We have Mr. Lane, as



our smart math teacher, Mr. Ryan, as our crazy social studies teacher, Mrs. Weckler, as our weird language arts teacher, Mrs. Condon, as a fun language arts teacher and Ms. Swinter, as a awesome athletic teacher. Our rivalry with the path finding, pathfinders will not ruin 7th grade for us trailblazers. We hope you will enjoy 7th grade. Have a great year!!!

Strong Team Building Beginning at Camp Winnebago

We went to Camp Winnebago on September 3, 4 & 5. We were excited to hear about a field trip this early in our school year. The purpose of this trip was to provide an opportunity for the Trailblazer team to experience team building, communication, cooperation,

listening, respect, and honesty. The YMCA teaches these key concepts through a variety of activities. One such activity was the rock climbing wall in which our teammates encouraged us to new heights.

Other games included ordering your group by middle names without talking (this was tough!) and getting your team across hot molten lava. All in all, we learned many skills to help us work together as team back at school.



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Parent Tips:

- Homework Club has begun!
- Report Cards go home October 31.
- Check grades online at <https://www.spihost.com/HomeAccess/?SiteCode=blv>.
- Teacher webpages can be accessed at <http://www.teacherweb.com/>.



Trailblazers in Fall Sports

Cross Country

The Cross Country season was really exciting and successful. The boys team was undefeated throughout the whole season. The girls team was top 3 in all our meets. Trailblazers on the cross country team are Jordyn Horner, Rebecca Shlemon, Julia Mainguy, Mitzvah Zavala, Collin Weintraub, Jon Menge, Gray Bauman, Avery Lansedal, Jacob Fritz, Jacob Howe, and Chase Hill. Congratulation to the sectional team who made it to the IESA State meet. The boys earned first place and girls earned third place at Sectionals. On October 18, 2008, in Normal, Illinois, the boys team achieved a 6th place with 224 points and the girls achieved 25th place with 577 points. Congrats to the whole team for a successful season.

Football

The Football season is over but here is a recap:

The team had a very good season with 46 players participating on the 7th grade football team. One example of success occurred on October 11th when we beat south by 2 points for a final score of 8-6. Ben Nordman returned a 65 yd kickoff and a two point conversion was scored by Christian Hudson. Mr. Keithley demands hard work and dedication in practices and this was seen from the first game against Burlington all the way to the end of the season.



Volleyball

These three months have been the most exciting months of the year. The A team only lost three games and the B team only lost two!



Both the A and B teams worked so well together. We had hard practices but it all paid off during the games. Coach Hunter really encouraged us to try our hardest and have fun! We did really well in the tournament. Unfortunately, Belvidere Central was defeated by Huntley by two points! The girls in the stands were very supportive of the rest of the team. We were awarded second and got a plaque! Trailblazers who participated in volleyball include: Danette Billon, Grace Czechowicz, Sammy Walleck, Alysha Cummings, and Quin Bannon.

She Blinded Me With Science

Miss Swinter has been teaching us to open our eyes so we aren't blinded to science. We began the year learning about Scientific Lab Safety and setting the stage for many labs to come. Next we moved on to studying the scientific method in which we did many experiments involving pennies, rubberbands, and cabbage juice?? After mastering the metric system which ties the scientific world together, we moved on to our Murder Mystery. Miss Swinter was very

convincing when she first told us that Mr. Downey had died; however, we saw through act and went straight to the facts.

We investigated the who, what, where, when, and why of Mr. Downey's murder. We worked as a team, to gather observations about the entire crime scene and all the evidence. Detective



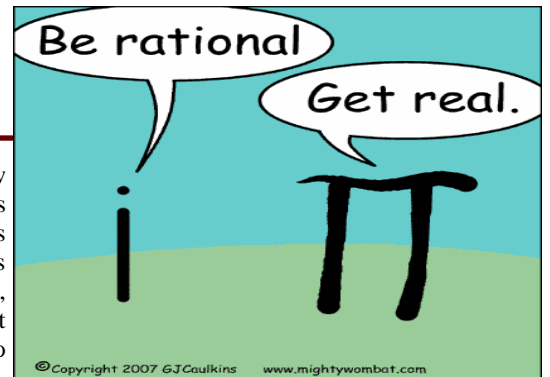
Smaha, from the Belvidere Police Department offered his time and expertise to talk to our classes about being a detective and gave us advice about our own investigation. Through much trial and toil and analysis of the evidence, we are now drawing our conclusions and forming our hypotheses about Mr. Downey's death. Who should pay for this crime: Mr. Ryan, Mrs. Hay, Mrs. Homb, and Mrs. Wiltse? The BCMS C.S.I. will soon find out!

The Wonderful World of Numbers

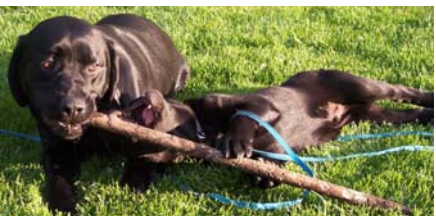
2! 4! 6! 8! What do we appreciate? Algebra! Yeah Algebra! Yeah... Algebra! We began the year studying Number Sense involving percents, frac-

tions, and decimals. We are now gliding and grinding through lessons on Algebra. You know who deserves a big thank-you? Mr. Lane that's who! With the help of Miss Rooney, Kosmo, and Puddy, Algebra couldn't be easier. We're looking forward to more math madness as we manipulate massive numbers.

Extra credit problem before you finish reading: What do you get if you divide



the circumference of a jack-o-lantern by its diameter?.....
.....(pumpkin pi...ha!!!)



Northern Illinois University Clinical Students

Miss Rooney:

Miss Rooney is a junior at NIU and is majoring in Elementary Education with a minor in Math. She will be working with Mr. Lane in his 7th grade math class for the next three weeks for her NIU clinicals. She grew up in Tinley Park, but went to high school in New Lenox. In her free time, Miss Rooney likes to go to NIU football games, hang out with her friends and raise money and awareness for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. She is enjoying working with Mr. Lane and is having a wonderful experience here at Belvidere Central Middle School.



Miss Jordan:

Miss Jordan is working with Ms. Swinter's 7th grade science class for the next three weeks. She is very excited to be working in a science class because she has always loved science and doing hands-on labs and experiments. One of her heroes is her dad who inspired her to want to become a teacher. She

loves animals, nature, walking in the woods and camping. She is tri-lingual speaking English, Spanish, and American Sign Language. Her favorite color is purple. She is excited about learning all the ins and outs of teaching and working with middle school kids.

Miss Pantalena:

Miss Pantalena is a clinical student from NIU. She is from Carol Stream, IL and enjoys traveling and spending time with her family and friends. She is very involved in various organizations at school, as well as donating her time to community service. Miss Pantalena is completing her clinical experience in Mr. Ryan's Social Studies class which has been a very educational and fun experience for her thus far. She has enjoyed helping in the classroom as well as getting to know all of the students. Miss Pantalena said, "Belvidere Central is a great school and I am very happy to have been able to complete my clinical experience here!"

Mrs. Rightnowar:

Let us introduce you to the student teacher, Mrs. Rightnowar. "I like observing the students and what

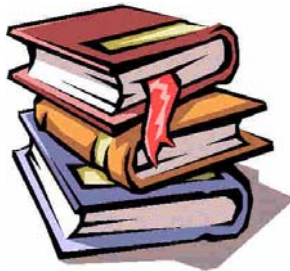


they do. I think Mr. Ryan is a good influence for them" said Mrs. Rightnowar. She attends Rockford College, and studies not only for Social Studies but also for Language Arts and Science, too. Her mom was an English teacher. Mrs. Rightnowar works for a state representative. She also has three kids and they're all in sports. She enjoys golfing and swimming and would like to visit Australia. Her favorite part of Social Studies is the Constitution and her heroes are her parents.

The Land of Language

We have been busy in language arts. Our first goal of the year has been prediction and point of view. We have also completed our first book report of the year on a book of our choice.

Aaaaah! Aaaaah! BOO!! Do you think the house of Dies Drear is haunted with the ghosts of 2 slaves and Dies Drear himself? Well they



aren't the only people to be scared of! Old Pluto might have the appearance of the devil! Be sure to read the book: The House of Dies Drear!

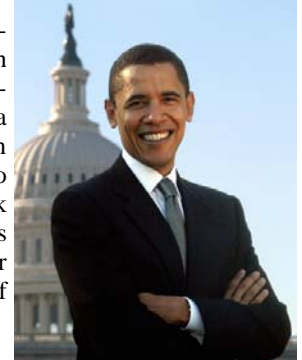
As always, Trailblazers should be reading 20 minutes each evening to improve our reading and comprehension skills. Let the fun begin!!!

Who's our nations next leader? McCain verses Obama in 2008...



There is a lot to say about social studies. At the beginning of the year, we started of with the five themes of geography. We did an awesome project to go with it. Now we are covering colonial times since of course this is American history. It's the best place to start. We did a brochure in which we were given a colony section (Middle, New England, and Southern) to report on.

We are preparing for the 2008 election through lessons on the election process and facts about the candidates. BCMS will be holding a school-wide presidential election prior to the real election in order to understand how electoral votes work and a new president is named. It is sure to be exciting as we exercise our civic responsibility in the realm of politics.





BELVIDERE CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Important Dates:

Parent/Teacher Conferences.....	Nov 6
School Improvement Day.....	Nov 7
Parent/Teacher Conferences.....	Nov 10
Veterans Day.....	Nov 11
Midterm Ends.....	Nov 21
School Dance.....	Nov 21
Thanksgiving Break.....	Nov 26-30
Discovery Museum Field Trip.....	Dec 1
Midterms Go Home.....	Dec 5
School Dance.....	Dec 12
Winter Break.....	Dec 20-Jan 4

We would like to thank the following students for their contributions to this newsletter, for it could not have been accomplished without all of your help.

Thank you!!!

Alexa Aguilera, Samantha Bachynski, Adam Becker, Danette Billon, Grace Czechowicz, Jessica Eide, Roberto Gomez, Brittany Kelley, Mike McCormick, Amanda Molina, Emily Ramboldt, Dawn Smith, Caroline Vega, Sammy Walleck and Mitzvah Zavala.



We're on the Web!

www.district100.com

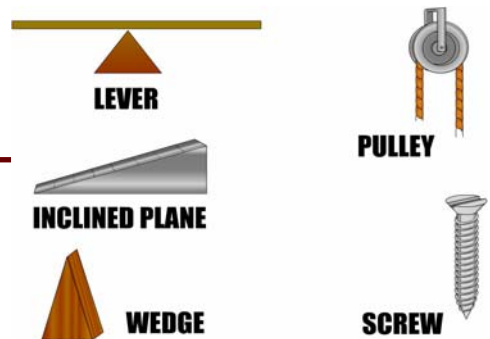
Up Coming Events

Coronado Theater

Let me be the first to say the Trailblazers are fired up about seeing *Shelia the Great* at the one and only spiffy CORANADO THEATER!!! It's just a privilege to see a play at such a 5 star theater. Our chaperons are just as thrilled as we are. Hope to see you there!! Remember it's on Wednesday, October, 29th 2008.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

The end of the first quarter is fast approaching. The Trailblazer team will be holding Parent/Teacher Conferences on Thursday, November 6th and Monday, November 10th from 4:30 –8:30 pm. You will be meeting with your child's homebase teacher to discuss all CORE classes. Should you require or request a meeting with a specific team member, you can make those arrangements through the homebase teacher during the conference. Those staff members will then contact you and arrange a date for any additional conferences. Conferences will be scheduled on a first come first serve basis. Conference slips need to be returned to your child's homebase teacher on or before Wednesday, October 29th. Confirmed conferences will be sent home with your child on Friday, October 31st.



Discovery Museum Field Trip

Trailblazers will be going to the Discovery Museum in Rockford, Illinois on December 1 and 2. This is our first year attending this field trip at the Discovery Museum. We will be studying their display on simple machines. This includes hands-on displays involving levers, gears, and pulleys. The Discovery Center staff will spend 45 minutes with small groups of students teaching them about the advantages of using simple machines. The rest of the extent of our trip will be spent learning and playing . . . I mean doing science . . . from the rest of the wonderful displays. We are sure to learn a lot about simple machines which will help us gain background about our next unit on mechanical advantage and efficiency.

