

G.A. SMITH PARENT NEWS



G.A. Smith Middle School 645 Kirkwood Pike
Quarryville, PA 17566 717-786-2244 www.solanco.org

Principal, Paul Gladfelter
Assistant Principal, Lindsay Capoferri

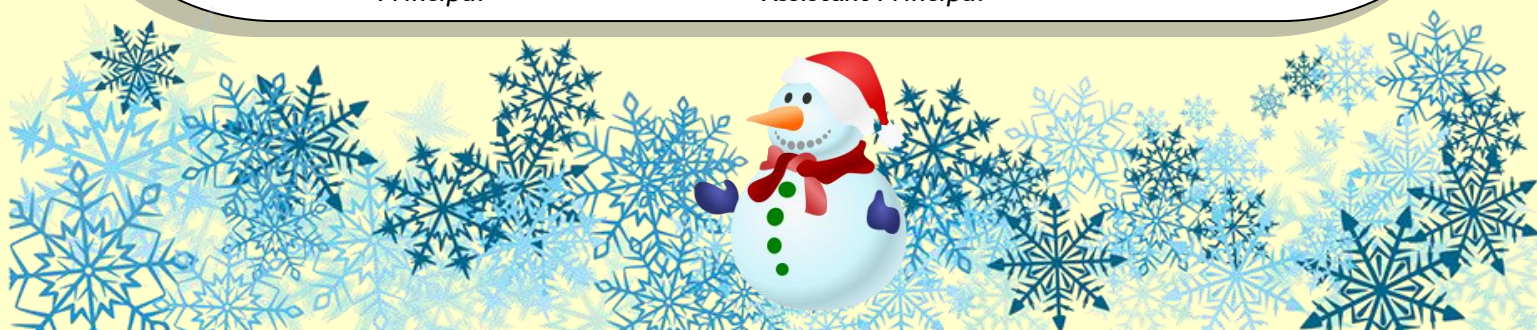
Happy New Year Smith Families,

The topic we would like to bring up this month is one we have talked about with many parents in the last few months- how to monitor use of technology when it is dominating so much of our kids' lives. It is true that we cannot avoid them spending time on the computer right now, and it is true that they have access to so much more than before. As a parent, it can seem overwhelming at times. The American Academy of Pediatrics provides some really great tips on this topic:

1. **Make your own family "media use plan"**. Establish boundaries and expectations for everyone in the household. Want help? Make a plan at HealthyChildren.org/MediaUsePlan.
2. **Treat media as you would any other environment in your child's life**. Set limits; kids need and expect them. Know your children's friends, both online and off. Know what platforms, software, and apps your children are using and what sites they are visiting on the web.
3. **Set limits and encourage time without technology**. Media use, like all other activities, should have reasonable limits.
4. **Screen time shouldn't always be alone time**. Co-view, co-play and co-engage with your children when they are using screens—it encourages social interactions, bonding, and learning. Don't just monitor them online—interact with them, so you can understand what they are doing and be a part of it.
5. **Be a good role model**. Teach and model kindness and good manners online. Because children are great mimics, limit your own media use.
6. **Create tech-free zones**. Keep family mealtimes, other family and social gatherings, and children's bedrooms screen free. Recharge devices overnight—outside your child's bedroom to help him or her avoid the temptation to use them when they should be sleeping.
7. **Apps for kids – do YOUR homework**. Look to organizations like Common Sense Media for reviews about age-appropriate apps, games and programs to guide you in making the best choices for your children.
8. **Instead of eliminating online activity completely, teach your kids about appropriate online activity**. Many teens need to be reminded that a platform's privacy settings do not make things actually "private" and that images, thoughts, and behaviors teens share online will instantly become a part of their digital footprint indefinitely. Keep lines of communication open and let them know you're there if they have questions or concerns.
9. **Warn children about the importance of privacy and the dangers of predators and sexting**.
10. **Remember: Kids will be kids**. Kids will make mistakes using media. Try to handle errors with empathy and turn a mistake into a teachable moment. *Reference: healthykids.org*

Paul Gladfelter
Principal

Lindsay Capoferri
Assistant Principal



Health Update

Friendly reminder- If your student is sick, please keep them home from school and contact the nurses for guidance. Students should also remain home until fever-free, and/or without diarrhea/vomiting for at least 24 hours without medications before returning to school.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns

Mollie Truitt, CSN
717-786-2244 ext. 4
Mollie_truitt@solancosd.org



6th Grade Team News

Language Arts – In the month of January, 6th grade language arts will finish reading *The True Confessions* of Charlotte Doyle.

LEAD – LEAD students will be working on our first TDA and vocabulary skills.

Math – This month we will be working with exponents, order of operations, and practice using formulas.

Science – Students in Science will be finishing up the unit on work and power by designing their own simple machine. Next, students will be exploring how cells demonstrate life.

Social Studies – Students will explore the Indus Valley Civilization on the Indian sub-continent. We will head east afterwards to Ancient China!

Counselor's Corner

Happy New Year! If you and your child are working on creating a new year's resolution, talk to your learners about SMART goals.

Specific- what exactly are you going to do?

Measurable- I will know when I have reached my goal when...

Attainable- with hard work, is it possible to reach this goal?

Realistic- is my goal important enough to me to put it into action?

Time-bound- I will reach my goal by...

Help your learner identify areas they need improvement in (ex. Academics, behavior, attendance) and help them work through a plan through SMART goals!

Please feel free to contact me at any time. I can be reached by email: Caitlin_desimone@solancosd.org, or by phone: (717) 786-2244.



Left to right: Brynn Raub; Jeff McCardell; Erin Fagan; Kelly Absher; Sandy Lee; Tim Tercha; Maryanne Robertson; Chad McDowell



7th Grade Team News

Math/Math Extensions: Scholars will be evaluating multiple step equations involving all operations, distributive property, and real-world problems.

LEAD: Scholars will be enhancing our before, during, and after reading strategies with our independent novel of choice.

Social Studies: Scholars will be sharing their Native American research project presentations to their peers in class. Scholars will discover how North America was impacted when explorers from the many countries of Europe tried to find shorter routes to the spices, jewels, and silks of the Far East. For those inhabitants already in North America, home would never be the same.

Language Arts: Scholars will be completing a fiction unit by analyzing several short stories including "The Tell-Tale Heart" and "The Necklace." They will also be reading The Island of the Blue Dolphins simultaneously while analyzing the historical perspective of the story.

Science: Scholars will be finishing their Earth Systems Unit, and then will begin a unit on Life Structure and Functions.



Mrs. Stump, Mr. Freas, Mr. Cairns, Mrs. McDowell, Mrs. Groff, Mr. Koenig and Mrs. Plechner

8th Grade Team News

Language Arts: Students will be completing their poetry unit and begin their historical fiction unit by reading the novel *Across Five Aprils*.

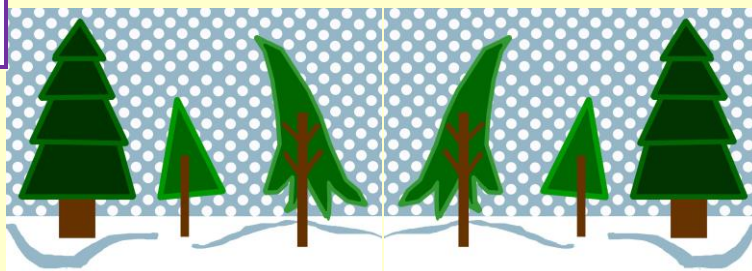
LEAD III: We will kick off 2022 with projects on different text types. From there, the students will spend the rest of January learning about Before Reading Strategies.

Algebra: In January, Advanced Algebra students will finish a chapter about slopes and lines in Algebra.

Pre-Algebra: Pre-Algebra students will do a chapter about probability and Geometry and then do a chapter about slopes and lines in Algebra. Both classes will do round #2 of the CDT testing sometime in January!

Integrated Geography: Geography students will end our course with a look at the countries that make up Latin America. They will compete to finish a Latin American Race with projects and activities.

Science: In January in Science the students will be finishing the Forces and Motion unit. They will then learn about different types of energy, and how energy is converted and transferred to other types. Finally they will begin a unit on 'The Atmosphere'.



Social Studies: In January the students will be learning about the Oregon Trail and the California Gold Rush. Later in the month the students will start to study the events of the 1850's.



*Back: Mrs. Mankin, Mrs. Riehl, Miss Sangrey, Mr. Kump, Mr. Nova
Front: Miss Murray, Miss Myers*

Unified Arts Team News

ORCHESTRA - A big THANK YOU to all for getting Orchestra students to both concerts! You should be proud of the hard work your children did. We will be starting new music in January for the Spring concert.

BAND - Congratulations on a successful concert! I could not be more proud of the hard work everyone put in, you should feel the same way. Enjoy your break - we will be hitting the ground running in January with new music and starting Jazz Band!

CHORUS - Thank you to all that came to support our students in the winter concert! It was a fun night. We will start rehearsals again this month!

MUSIC - All students will be starting their final unit in music class! Students still have time to complete any missing work!

HEALTH - Students have begun their Substance Abuse unit with lessons related to tobacco and nicotine. We will continue with lessons about tobacco, vaping, and smokeless tobacco as well as begin lessons related to alcohol.

FITNESS - Students will begin their basketball unit upon returning from Winter Break. We will learn the different skills associated with basketball, and then how to put them together to play in a basketball game.

COMPUTER TECH - See you in the spring

ART - After break, 6th grade students will begin their still life drawing project using colored pencils on black construction paper. 7th grade artists will create drawings or sculptures using upcycled materials like book pages. 8th grade artists will finish out their last art project in middle school with a choice-based artwork.

FACS - 6th graders will be learning about measuring, processed foods, and how to prepare some nutrient-dense foods. 7th graders will learn about MyPlate and prepare a full, balanced breakfast. 8th graders will learn about food science and prepare cookies and mug cakes.

STEM - Sixth graders will be continuing their investigations into flight. Seventh graders will be looking into renewable energy sources and their many benefits. Eighth graders will continue to focus on computer programming and robotics.

TECH ED - Sixth Grade will be finishing their Mousetrap Cars and racing them for distance. Can anyone beat the all-time school record of 132 feet? Seventh Grade will be finishing their Robotics Unit; the culminating activity will be the Arena of Pain! Eighth Grade will be finishing their Independent Study Projects: Shelf, Lamp, 3D Printing, Electronics, or Robotics.

MEDIA CENTER - All grades will continue book exchanges through their language arts or LEAD classes. As a reminder, all students are able to check out two books at a time, as long as they do not have any books overdue. Students are always allowed to renew books. We will spend the next few months researching various topics while reinforcing the research process. Students will be encouraged to use different software and technologies to produce an end product for their research.

Smith Middle School Enrollment Report

6th Grade = 114 7th Grade = 125
8th Grade = 157 Total = 396

Upcoming Dates:

1/17-NO SCHOOL-Teacher In-service Day
1/21-End of 2nd MP (Tentative)
1/24-NO SCHOOL(Tentative)-91st Day of School
1/27-Parent/Teacher Conferences



Front: Mr. Himmelberger, Mr. Silimperi, Miss Phillips, Mrs. Plaisted
Back: Mrs. Falduts, Miss Wasilus, Mr. Jansen, Mr. Shickora, Mrs. Braightmeyer, Miss Sellers
Inset: Mrs. Almoney