



From the Principal's Desk:

I would like to thank everyone for the warm welcome to the Belmont Middle School Family. We've had an awesome start to the 09-10 school year. We are continuing the focus on "Future Ready Graduates", making Average Yearly Progress (AYP) in all of our target subgroups, and pursuing the National Recognition of a "School to Watch." I have just been informed that we have been selected to continue to the next phase of the "School to Watch" process.

Last year Belmont Middle School achieved both "School of Distinction" with 80% of the students at grade level and AYP by meeting 19 of 19 target goals. One of my priorities for Belmont Middle School is to continue to raise the bar for achievement and to challenge our students. With your support we can remain the top middle school in Gaston County and continue to pursue the "Honor School of Excellence."

-Mr. Mark Schultz

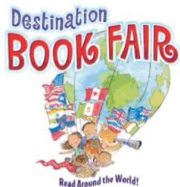
This year, to help reduce costs, we have a new yearbook company. We are using the Charlotte based, Herff Jones. Your child filled out a form during connections stating what yearbook package he or she prefers. All parents will receive a letter from Herff Jones giving the opportunity to buy that package or the one they want. Options include an engraved name plate.



Preorder price for the yearbook is only \$25 (including tax)

It is wise to pre-order your child's yearbook so they will be assured of receiving one. We order some extra to sell when they arrive, but those sell quickly. For information the best way to contact Mrs Lambert (the yearbook adviser) is email: sjlambert@gaston.k12.nc.us

Media News from L. Cathcart & D. Rollins



We're off to a great start in the library this year. To help raise funds to purchase more new and exciting books for our school, the Book Fair will be held from November 30 - December 4. Parents are welcome during the Book Fair to stop by and purchase worthwhile gifts for their children, teachers, and families.

Chorus Notes from K. Lawton



The following Belmont Middle chorus students participated in the Gaston County Honors Chorus held on Thursday, October 29, 2009 at Holbrook Middle School. Miss Lawton prepared students for this prestigious event and Band teacher, Mrs. Lineberger, performed a flute solo with the Chorus.

K. Asmuth	L. Arroyo	D. Hunter	R. Nivens	A. Ward
L. Wessinger	G. Wilson	H. Long	L. Stephens	L. Tesnear
J. Brooks	C. Young	S. Fretwell	D. Isles	C. Morgan
A. Allen	A. Hall	D. Riddle	M. Vasko	B. Reeves
B. Rice	R. Tran	T. Williams		

Plan now for the Winter Chorus Concert on Thursday, December 3, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at South Point High School.

Sports News from Coach Pruitt and Coach Johnson



At the end of last school year the Belmont Middle Baseball team won the County Championship **undefeated** with 12 wins! The Football and Girl's Softball teams have picked up where they left off with both of them going **undefeated** and winning the County Championships!

The golf team finished 2nd in Gaston County, while Nick Stafford won Co-Champ Honors.

6th GRADE

The Lions team has roared through our first nine weeks at BMS.

In Language Arts, we have studied story elements, details, and main idea by reading short stories, poems, and folktales. We wrote narrative and persuasive essays.

In Grammar, we have focused on the eight parts of speech and the main parts of a sentence.

In Social Studies, we have studied geography and map skills. We are now learning about the countries in Europe.

Congratulations to all our Lions that met their AR goal:

R. Gordon, A. Harvell, N. Perez, S. Butt, A. Cagle, J. Kendall, M. Knight, C. Lamadrid, M. Moreno, T. Stryker, R. Tran, B. Washam, K. Williams, and M. Withers

***For all the Lions that did not meet their AR goal a book project has been assigned and is due on Nov.17 ***



Congratulations, also, to our Students of the Month so far this year:

B. Arnold, K. Williams, S. Butt, and S. Holder

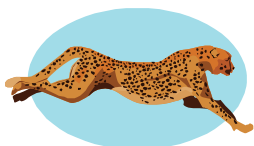
Parents, please look at and initial your child's Agenda every night. Remember, every Lion is supposed to read at least 20 minutes every night and write in their reading log.

The Lions have been working on Decimals in Math. We worked on exponents and Order of Operations at the beginning of the year. We had fun with converting Metric Units. We had a great time changing units with our saying "King Henry Died By Drinking Chocolate Milk." We used the Stair Step method which made the metric conversions so much easier to complete. We have just learned a great way to figure out how to find the LCM and GCF for numbers. These two skills will help us as we begin to tackle Fractions this nine weeks.

In Science we became archaeologists for a day when we excavated chocolate chip cookies. We studied the Scientific Method of Investigation and we are currently working on the topic of Space. We explored the Space Shuttle and went on a 360 degree tour of the International Space Station. We laughed as we watched the astronauts try to eat in space. Now that we have spent time on how we get to space we will spend some time on our planets. Be on the look out for their first Science Project to be assigned on Space very soon.

Mariagnes Airhart -Math/Science

S. Rumpfelt – Lang. Arts/Social Studies



Cheetah Team News:

Way to go Cheetahs!!! You have made an awesome transition to Belmont Middle School; tardies are fewer, less time spent at lockers, organization is better, improvement on completing homework, and academics are soaring. Keep up the hard work for the rest of the year, and you will reap the benefits on EOGs.

Congratulations to:

- **C. Hyde** and **J. Wessinger** for being selected from a pool of students as our **BTV** crew. They auditioned and earned the position.
- September Students of the Month are **C. Hill** and **T. Lee**.
- October Students of the Month are **L. Brown** and **H. Denton**.
- Chorus Honors are **A. Allen** and **B. Rice**.
- **S. Schultz** was the top seller for BMS fall fundraiser.

Thank you parents for your support and all you have done so far ensuring top priority on academics and behavior. Your continued involvement utilizing the agenda as our communication between home and school is the reason for their success. 2009-2010 will be our best year ever!

Mrs. Ammons
Mrs. Blanton

The Bobcats have gotten off to a great start.

Congratulations to our students of the month:

September – Laura K. and Jake B. &

October – Mia G. and Heath D.



Here's what we've been doing during the first 9 weeks:

Math

- Number Sense
- Decimal operations
- Greatest Common Factor (GCF) and Least Common Multiple (LCM)
- Decimal applications (Scientific Notation)

Science

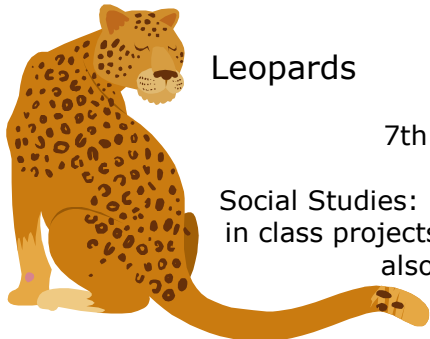
- Scientific Inquiry (understanding and using technology)
- Sun-Earth-Moon System
- The Solar System
- Radiation from space & space missions

Language Arts

- Literary elements, genres of literature, summarizing, sequencing, main idea
- Short nonfiction article about bobcats
- Read and compared poems and plays

Social Studies

- Map skills
- Five Themes of Geography
- Southern Europe – Italy, Greece, Spain, and Portugal



Leopards

7th grade

7th Grade Leopards: Betty Cauble, Liz Gray, Debbie Robinson, and Erin Whitener

Social Studies: Leopard SS is exploring Africa. We just completed Ancient Egypt with awesome in class projects. Africa is home to many diverse ethnic groups with fascinating cultures, but also contains much violence, poverty, and disease.

Science: Cells have become a very important part of our 1st 9 weeks. Parts, their jobs, and how they function, and also why they are important were discussed. Why is it important for cells to divide? Students have also enjoyed the topic of cloning and deciding whether they are for or against it after being introduced to Dolly the sheep. The human body is the next 9 weeks.

Language Arts: In Language Arts, students have written their first persuasive essay for the state writing assessment. They used Microsoft Word on the computer to plan, write, and draft the essay. We have read science fiction stories, and the Native American novels Indian Captive and Code Talker. Students who met their first 9 weeks goal in Accelerated Reader enjoyed a movie and popcorn on Nov. 5th.

Math: The math classes have learned how to solve proportions, solve problems using order of operations, and are now in the process of learning about integers. Ask your student about multiplying and dividing integers. The students have enjoyed using the Smart Board and computer lab to practice ordering and adding integers and order of operations.

Go Cougars!

Cougar students have had a fabulous 1st Quarter. They participated in an interdisciplinary day on pumpkins on October 30th and spent the day measuring, examining, discussing, describing and making pumpkins!

Do you know who the Greek Goddess of Love was? Cougar students do. Students learned about Greek and Roman Gods/Goddesses in Language Arts and are working on creating a Mythology newspaper detailing all of the myths and characters they have been reading about. The students have studied and learned 40 vocabulary words and wrote an essay on "Who Am I."

What is box and whiskers? The cougar students could tell you. They learned all about the box and whiskers graphing in math class. The students have also learned about exponents, order of operations, and bar and line graphing. The students will soon start exploring the world of fractions, decimals, and integers.

Can you spell deoxyribonucleic acid? The cougar students have been studying the cell and its processes. They have used the microscope and tossed pennies to provide hands-on learning with the cell and genetics. The Belmont Police Department came and presented information on DNA. 2nd nine weeks they will begin studying the human body.

Do you know what country is between Iraq and Afghanistan? The Cougar students do. They just recently learned all about the Middle East in Social Studies. They have already covered religions, world cultures and population patterns. Next they will start to explore ancient Egypt and North Africa.

8th grade

Jaguars

Language Arts: We have read the novel Nothing but the Truth by Avi and the poetry and literature by Edgar Allan Poe. We will have recently jumped into the novel The Pigman.

The AIG class spent the first nine weeks reading short stories from the Junior Great Books. Next we will spend a semester studying the unit The 1940's: A Decade of Change.

Science: Jaguars are studying chemistry, matter, properties of matter, atoms of elements, chemical change, and chemical reactions. We are pleased with the new technology and supplies for our science classroom! Mrs. Mincey has received lots of hands-on labs and the "Cadillac" of all Smartboards!

Math: We have focused on multi-step equations and inequalities. Algebra students began a new chapter on exploring functions.

Social Studies: Jaguars have learned about the Articles of Confederation, the Constitution, and the formation of the new government. We are also studying political issues that are addressed in the 2008 Presidential Election.

The Jaguars are extremely excited about our upcoming field trip to Linville Caverns and Appalachian State University. We are headed to the mountains on November 13th.



Tigers

Language Arts

Wow! Ninety-seven students made their AR goals for the 1st nine weeks of school. They were treated to a popcorn and movie party. New goals have been set for the 2nd 9 weeks. Those students who make their goals for the 2nd 9 weeks will be treated to a skating trip and a movie party. Students should be reading at home every night.

Social Studies

The field trip to the Belmont Historical Society was a huge success! The students toured a mill house and learned about historical Belmont.

Math

Math students solved equations and inequalities.

Science

Science classes have been studying chemistry and enjoyed the "Puking Pumpkin" experiment.

Field Trip to Linville Caverns and Appalachian State University is Thursday, Nov. 12.