

Andalusia Middle School News January- February 2014

State Testing Is Coming Up!

State testing time is almost here! Students in grades 3-8 will have their state testing for ELA and Math in April. It is extremely important that students be in school and on time everyday as we are doing extensive test prepping. Please make this a priority. A good breakfast at home is also helpful to the students to help wake them up and help them work at their best ability.

Another very important part of testing and every day in school is a student's attitude and mind frame. Parents can help us with this by doing everything possible to make sure that mornings are calm and free of conflict. An example of this is possibly getting all materials, book bags, clothing, and shoes ready for the next morning. Book bags should be packed and put by the door, ready to go. This will save time and energy in the morning!

This is also a great time of year for students to refresh their school supplies. It is important for middle school students to come to school with notebooks, folders, and pens and pencils. Students should sometimes clean out their book bags to stay organized. Teachers help students in school also clean out their lockers too.

NY STATE TESTING DATES:

| TEST | Administration Dates |
|---|---|
| Grades 3-8 English Language Arts | Tuesday, April 1-Thursday, April 3 |
| Grades 3-8 Mathematics | Wednesday, April 30-Friday, May 2 |
| Grade 4 Science Performance Test | Wednesday, May 21-Friday, May 30 |
| Grade 8 Science Performance Test | Wednesday, May 22-Friday, May 30 |
| Grade 4 Science-Written | Monday, June 2 |
| Grade 8 Science-Written | Monday, June 2 |

Common Core State Standards information and updates can be found on www.corestandards.org. Also parents can visit www.engageny.org to read about the common core more in depth.

Progress reports were sent home on February 14, 2014. Some teachers requested a meeting with parents to discuss their child's grades. Please make an appointment and see the teacher if that is the case. It is very important to keep open communication between the teachers and parents.

Parent Teacher Conferences:

The second parent teacher conference is on March 28, 2014 from 6-8 PM.

Middle School Spelling Bee is on March 6, 2014

National Junior Honor Society:

The National Junior Honor Society took a trip to Washington D.C. for a leadership conference that was beyond everyone's expectations. Students attended meetings with other National Junior Honor Society students from around the country. They described these meetings as fun, interesting, different and having tremendous learning experiences. Students went to various workshops in order to improve their leadership skills. Workshops included How to Lose Your Sandbags. This was about how to conquer things that might bring us down, like a sandbag would bring down a balloon. Another workshop was How to Spread School Spirit. The speaker showed the students to be a leader and a listener. For example, he showed the student's to listen to the student government and announcements at school. They also learned that failure can help you improve. "If I don't care, no one else will" was a quote the students discussed.



These are some of the responses our NJHS members wrote:

At first, I was convinced that I had better times and trips than this. But as the weekend progressed on, I can't deny that this was honestly one of the best times of my life, if not the very finest. At the preface of the trip, I kept hearing everyone say 'conference,' and 'meeting' and all of it sounded tedious to me, but now that I look back, the conferences, the talks, those were what I loved most. The speakers there were outstanding, and I learned and took a lot of what they said home with me. When my aunt asked me how the trip went, I felt obligated to tell her how I felt of this trip and most everything that the speakers talked about. What spoke out to me was how the people used their own life stories to show us how they got through their struggles, and how their own failures molded them into the leaders they are today. They spoke of leadership morals and characteristics, how to overcome our failures - they taught us that yes, we WILL fail at times, and that is what made everything so much more inspirational. To be told that we will fail, but we can still make it back to the top. And the proof was the people on stage, who failed, yet there they were that weekend, back at the very top.

-Anonymous

Andalusia School headed to Washington D.C. this trip was a very refreshing trip and it was the most amazing experience for all of us. The trip to Washington D.C was a little long, but it was definitely worth those 5 hour drive. Each and every speech was very inspirational and we all benefited a lot from it. One speech was about achieving your dreams, even when not everyone is supportive about it. If you love something, go for it! Don't wait for someone's approval if you are doing the right thing. Another lesson we've learned is to never give up. The hotel was big and beautiful. Overall it was a great experience. We had a lot of fun and it felt like I was with my big family, Alhamdulillah!!

Mena Hamza

The trip to Washington DC Lead conferences was an amazing experience. We learned about leadership rolls and skills and how to become a successful leader. At the Lead Conferences we attended very motivational and influential speeches by Brodie Kaster and Scott Greenberg. We very much enjoyed the workshops; they were very interactive and educational. In one of the session we watched a video about bullying "THE PLEDGE". The purpose of this session was to motivate students to make a positive difference in the world around them with their words, actions, and attitudes. The pledge is a commitment to building others up rather than tearing them down. This trip was very exciting and enthusiastic; I hope we will attend conferences like this later on next year INSHALLAH!!!!!!

Mohammad Rafae Amin

The National Junior Honor Society went to the LEAD CONFERENCE 2014 in Washington D.C! This was a fun, exciting, and educational trip for every student, and so many memories will be remembered! It was such an amazing event. We did so many things from improving our leadership skills to going to workshops, improving our character, raising awareness for bullying, listening to some funny stories, but very motivational and inspiring speakers, and even making new friends! This was a great event for the students and we learned so much that will not only benefit us, but the school also. I would also like to say special thanks to Sr. Hanade who made this trip possible for us and provided us with transportation to go to this exciting trip!

Afsana Rahmin

New Teachers:

Our new teachers, Sister Lois Rednick, Sister Kym Cooper, Sister Nahed Sarar, and Sister Naglaa Abdulkarim have been welcomed by the students and feel like they have always been a part of Andalusia School. Sister Kym led the science fair and prepared the students to complete their experiments. It was a huge success. Sister Lois is tutoring the students who need extra help in Reading. Sister Nahed is working with the students to create murals on the school walls to beatify them. The following is a little about each of the new teachers:

Sister Lois Rednick has been a teacher for over 20 years, teaching for the New York City Board of Education and for private schools in Westchester and Connecticut. She has taught as a Reading Specialist and Learning Specialist in Middle School and High School. She has also taught grades 3-9 in English Language Arts and Social Studies. Sister Lois lives in Westchester with her two children, Sammie (10) and David (12) and her husband, Jeff.

Sister Kym Cooper has been teaching for 25 years and has a Juris Doctorate as well as a Master degree in Education. She relocated to New York from Atlanta, Georgia with her two children. Sister Kym is also an artist and has her own business as an artist.

Sr. Nahed Sarar is our Middle and High School art teacher. She has a degree in Sociology and a minor in Education. Sr. Nahed is not new to our school as she has been a substitute for a few years now. She lives in Yonkers with her husband and four children ages 2 through 8.

Sister Naglaa is our new level A Arabic teacher for Middle and High School. She has a great love for the Arabic language and is passionate about teaching children. She lives in Thornwood with her husband and has two daughters and a son

Student of the month of January 2014

| | |
|---------|-----------------|
| English | Deen Nawab |
| Science | Deyah Nofal |
| S.S | Khadijah Kamal |
| Math | Khalisah Gafur |
| Arabic | Ali Yousef |
| Quran | Mohammed Rafae |
| Art | Mohammed Nashir |



Science Fair 2014 Winners!

Gr-6: Hamid Malik, Khalid Gafur, Zubair Salim, Islam Abdullah, Khadijah Kamal, and Thaiba Sherwani

Gr 7: Afsana Rahman, Khalisah Gafur, Firdaus Mohammed, and Sumaia Bint Hussain

Gr-8: Yousef Qawasmi, Aqib Alamin, Salman Salim, and Jordan Munn



An esteemed, respected teacher, Sister Sonia is leaving Andalusia for another opportunity. Everyone in Andalusia school wishes her well and will miss her bright, cheerful demeanor. The students in 8th grade wrote a little about Sister Sonia.

One of the best teachers we had was Sister Sonya. Sister Sonia is going to teach at another school. This is going to be the last week Sister Sonia is teaching at Andalusia. She is one of my favorite teachers.

-Anonymous

As you may or may not know, our good teacher, Sister Sonia Chinn, is leaving. It was a shock, but everyone leaves now and then. I gathered opinions of people including mine and everyone is sad because Sister Sonia was always there to cheer us up and help us in our time of need. She would defend our rights like it was her own. My opinion is that she knew us and understood our strengths and weaknesses. She didn't stop teaching us until we were an expert on the topic. Andalusia will never replace Sister Sonia. Goodbye Sister Sonia.

By Nouraldeen Rawashdeh

One of the best middle school teachers, Sister Sonia is leaving for another teaching opportunity. We were all shocked as we heard her tell us the news. Sister Sonya is an amazing teacher. She is known for her teaching skills and her knowledge of Social Studies.

By Aqib Al-Amin