

# Sixth Grade Red Team

Empowered to DREAM, BELIEVE, AND ACHIEVE

Wilbur Middle School 2019-2020

## January News



### Our Email Addresses

Ms. Ficken - Language Arts  
dficken@usd259.net  
(Team Leader)

Ms. Daniels - Social Studies  
ddaniels@usd259.net

Ms. Sears - Science  
psears@usd259.net

Ms. Wysong - Math  
rwysong@usd259.net

### Late work policy:

- Students have 5 days to turn in work late.
- Late work will receive a 10% penalty
- After 5 days it is too late to turn it in

**Tutoring Available**  
(academic support)  
Monday - Thursday  
3:20 to 4:30  
(Students are limited to 2 after school sessions a week.) To sign up for tutoring students need to see Ms. Wysong in room 111.

Second semester, here we come. This week started off with a review of procedures in our classrooms along with grade level assemblies. After all, it is always good to revisit expectations after a break. With the startup of the new semester, please check on school supplies. The team is concerned about students coming to school without their tools. Please restock their **paper, pencils, highlighters, etc.** Many of the binders are in pretty bad shape. Several of our students have torn off the cover. Now would be a good time to buy a replacement binder. The office sells a binder for \$3.00.

**We, as a team, have high expectations for our students. We expect them to do the right thing.** If you ever have any concerns, please contact either the teacher directly via email, phone call or you may contact me (Dana Ficken, team leader). You may reach the team of teachers during our team time. We meet on Mondays and Friday from 1:05-1:45. My classroom number is 973-1024. We are focused towards helping your child be the best that he/she can be.

### Important Dates:

January 6<sup>th</sup> – School resumes  
January 14<sup>th</sup> – Sports and Group Pictures for Yearbook  
January 20<sup>th</sup> – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – No School  
January 21<sup>st</sup> – After School Tutoring resumes  
January 31<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> grade enrollment in Science Class  
January 31<sup>st</sup> – All School Dance 3:30 – 5:00

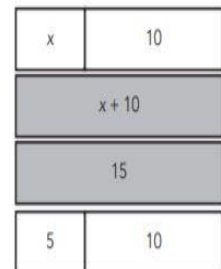
### Upcoming Dates: Spring Conferences

February 4<sup>th</sup> (4:00 – 7:30)  
February 6<sup>th</sup> (4:00 – 7:00)

Note: No early release for spring conferences

## Using Bar Models to Solve Addition Equations

Bar models are visual tools that can be used to solve equations. For example, this bar model shows that the expressions  $x + 10$  and 15 are equal, so  $x + 10 = 15$ . The top bar can be split into two bars,  $x$  and 10. When this split happens in the bottom bar, with one bar containing 10, it shows that  $x$  is the same as 5, so  $x = 5$ .



## Language Arts News (Ms. Ficken)

This month we will start by revisiting plot. It is very important that they understand the elements as they will be eventually creating a story with this unit. Students will learn about imagination, considering concepts relating to creativity and wonder. Our first text is a two act play based on the novel Phantom Tollbooth. We will work through the elements of plot along with keeping track of figurative language throughout the drama. After we complete Act I students will take a test over the text. Then after completion of Act II is where they will get to use their imagination and create a short story based on a picture they select (more info to come on this project).

On a side note: Watermark Books is hosting a middle school author in February. Lois Ruby writes historical fiction. She will be discussing her new book, Red Menace. If thirteen-year-old Marty Rafner had his way, he'd spend the summer of 1953 warming the bench for his baseball team, listening to Yankees games on the radio, and avoiding preparations for his bar mitzvah. Instead, he has to deal with FBI agents staking out his house because his parents--professors at the local college--are suspected communist sympathizers. (See [www.WatermarkBooks.com](http://www.WatermarkBooks.com) for more details.)

## Math News (Ms. Wysong)

In math, students will be deepening their understanding of expressions, equations, and inequalities. They learn that solving an equation means maintaining equality of the expressions on either side of the equals sign and they will analyze solutions to equations. Students use bar models to reason about solving one-step addition and multiplication equations and will solve a variety of real-world problems by writing and solving one-step addition and multiplication equations.

## Science News (Ms. Sears)

Hello and welcome back. I am excited to be joining the red team as the new 6<sup>th</sup> grade Science teacher. The first unit that students are coming back to is Intro to Chemistry. This unit will include topics such as Atomic Composition, Molecules and Extended structures, and Chemical Reactions Introduction. Intro to Chemistry will begin January 8<sup>th</sup> and will be wrapping up around February 17<sup>th</sup>. The first couple of days back, the students will be engaged in a variety of activities to review routines, procedures, and my expectations for the remainder of the school year as well as getting to know each other.

I am excited to begin this journey with all of you. Please keep in mind that there will be a slight adjustment period for your students as they get reacquainted to each other and myself. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at [psears@usd259.net](mailto:psears@usd259.net)

Please remember to save Boxtops!

## Social Studies News (Ms. Daniels)

### **SOCIAL STUDIES –Rise to a Better YOU!!!!**

I am excited about our next unit—Ancient India. How about a little dharma and karma? Our current unit, Ancient India has had a great influence on the development of newer civilizations. Understanding how people interact and react to each other provides valuable life lessons.

**This term I will be looking for respectable, appropriate behavior as we continue to learn in a public setting. Learning to cope with life's obstacles without taking it out on those around us is a valuable lesson in civility. We must learn to empower and lift others up as we challenge ourselves to be the best we can be!**

Just a reminder about homework!-- Please remind your child to complete the assignment given each day as homework and to come the next school day prepared. It is hard to do my job and develop deeper learning when only a few have done the work. Check with your child daily for assignments to complete as homework.