

# Phoenix Focus



## Save the Date for these November events:

Nov 8	Milwaukee Admirals Trip
Nov 8	PBIS Fall Ball 4-6 PM
Nov 9	Dine and Donate <b>Panda Express</b> 10:30am-9pm
Nov 9-10	NO School Professional Learning
Nov 14	PTSA Meeting @7pm
Nov 15	Game Night at Starbuck
Nov 17	All School -Holiday Folk Fair Trip
Nov 22-24	NO School Thanksgiving Break
Nov 28	MYP Parent info night 6-7pm

## From our IB Coordinator, Ms. Skaarnes

This month we are focusing on the learner profile trait Thinker. Thinkers exercise initiative in applying thinking skills critically and creatively to recognize and approach complex problems, and make reasoned, ethical decisions.

Activities you can do with your students at home:

- Encourage your child to try to think of solutions to problems independently.
- Pose different real-life problems and questions to your child:
  1. "I'm not sure how to arrange the glasses so they can all fit in the cupboard."
  2. "I wonder how much the groceries in the cart will cost...how can we make an estimate?"
- Ask your child questions when they are working on a problem:
  1. "Do you have any ideas about how we can begin?"
  2. How can we do this differently?"
  3. I had never thought of that. Tell me more about it."
  4. What other ways can we show that?"

**PLEASE JOIN US** Nov 28 6-7pm for our MYP Parent info night to learn more about how the MYP program is different from a traditional middle school and what is expected of our students and families at Starbuck.

Starting at the end of this month our 7th Grade Students will be beginning a Nat Geo Explorers program this month, we will be learning from explorers all over the world in weekly zoom sessions and activities. This will wrap up with a Service as Action Capstone project focusing on local wildlife!

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## School News & Events

XXVII Math Kangaroo Competition is happening at Starbuck. This is an international math competition with over 6 million participants worldwide! Discounted registration is available for Starbuck students until December 15, 2023. The competition will be held after school on March 21, from 4-5:30PM. Registration forms with discount codes can be found [here](#) or in the main office. We will have several after school meetings from Jan-March to go over important information, work through practice problems, and answer questions prior to the contest.

Students do not have to participate in practice days to participate although it is strongly suggested.

### Dates/times

Practice 1 - Thurs, January 18 3:45-5:00 pm

Practice 2 - Tues, February 6, 3:45-5:00 pm

Practice 3 - Thurs, February 22, 3:45-5:00 pm

Practice 4 - Tues, March 5, 3:45-5:00 pm

Contest - Thurs, March 21, 3:45-5:00 pm

**Stage Crew-** Mean Girls Jr Stage Crew will be starting November 8th. Please see Ms.Seiberlich for paperwork to join or any questions!!

**Mean Girls Jr Cast** - The rehearsal process has started. Monday-Thursday 4:00-5:45. Parents of cast members please join our [class dojo class](#) to receive updates and reminders! Please make sure they return all paperwork as soon as they can!

## Note from the Nurse

Cold weather has made its way to Racine! Please remember to carry your inhalers with you! Cough drops and other medications are not able to be handed out in the health office without medicine & a signed medication form. [\(link\)](#) Stop by and say 'Hello' to Nurse Kari, RN in room 146 or send her an email. [\(email link\)](#)

# Phoenix Focus

## Counselor Connection

### 7th Grade Students:

#### Career Discovery and Exploration

By the end of November, students will have completed two of the four career lessons for 7th grade already! Students discover what kind of learner they are: visual, auditory, tactile or a combination. Ask them about their personality style, are they a thinker, creator, builder, helper, or persuader? Even better, ask them to show you their XELLO Profile on Classlinks. They can share what careers they match with based on their hobbies and interests.

### 8th Grade:

**SCHOOL CHOICE WINDOW OPENS DEC. 1st!** ALL Starbuck students will be automatically enrolled at Case unless you indicate another choice. If you want your student to attend Case, you do not need to do anything. If you do not want your student to attend Case, please call our main office at (262)664-6500 or contact the 8th grade counselor, Mrs. Medlin, at (262)664-6512 or [brittany.medlin@rusd.org](mailto:brittany.medlin@rusd.org). Questions about high school? Schedule your 8th grade ACP conference with Mrs. Medlin!

November 14th marks **National Block It Out Day**, a powerful initiative by STOMP Out Bullying. The mission is to combat cyberbullying and create a safer, more positive online space. Cyberbullying is a persistent issue, affecting around 32% of students, and this day encourages us all to block out negativity. Last year, over 4.1 million people joined this movement, demonstrating that we are ready to take a stand against online hate and discrimination. On this day, we're not just blocking out bullies but creating a ripple effect that eradicates cruelty and promotes positivity, and we urge youths worldwide to participate, empower their friends and families, and help make the digital world a safer place.

**Call to Action:** Join us on November 14th to take back your power and block out negativity on National Block It Out Day. Let's create a chain reaction that erases online cruelty, discrimination, and hate.



# Phoenix Focus

## What's happening in the classroom?

**L&L:** In the sixth grade level, students are reading poetry and learning more about figurative language, such as a simile and metaphor. We are reading the poems: "A Voice" by Pat Mora, and "The Power of Words" by Langston Hughes. Challenge your student to write a simile or metaphor about their school experience!

**7th Grade:** We are finishing up our Literary terms and analysis study with presentations for their Literary Terms Movie Projects. When presentations wrap up, we will start a unit on persuasive writing.

**8th Grade:** In 8th grade, students are continuing to examine the horror genre to prepare to write a literary analysis of theme, foreshadowing, point-of-view, or one of the other aspects we're learning about as we go! Next up is a look into the underworld of Greek mythology with a reading from *The Aeneid* and *Hades: Lord of the Dead*.

### Science:

**6th Grade:** We have started our Weather Unit! 6th graders have just begun to take a closer look into the layers of the Earth's Atmosphere. Next up will be looking at Earth and Solar Energy as well as understanding the difference between weather and climate.

**7th grade Science:** We have wrapped up our 1st unit. Students did a great job working through the metric system, Scientific Method and making Claim, Evidence, Reasoning statements. We started our Ecology and Environment unit and plan to complete the unit at the end of January. Students are looking forward to learning all about ecosystems, food chain/food webs, Biomes, and more.

**8th Grade Science:** Welcome to November! In 8th Grade Science, we are starting our, "What's the Matter" Unit. We are at the beginning of our Molecule Project, where every student picks a molecule or piece of matter (from a teacher's list of about 60 choices) to research. Students will be building a 3-D model of a molecule, they will be creating an 8 page slideshow, and will be making a short video describing their model for their teacher. Students will be given in-class time and materials to do all of the parts of this project, so it is very important they are present to get their work done! If students don't finish in class they may have to find other time to finish their projects. Thank you for your support of science!

### I&S:

**6th Grade:** 6th graders are continuing to explore the five themes of geography. Our focus this month is on the physical Earth. Students are learning about how processes below and on Earth's surface shape our planet's physical features. Last month students created a political map of their own made up island country, our culminating activity will be creating a physical map for their country.



# Phoenix Focus

## What's happening in the classroom?

### I&S: (cont.)

**7th Grade:** Individuals and Societies classes are working on their summative project for the first quarter. Students are researching the origins of a specific recipe and the historical and cultural story behind that recipe. Second Quarter students will be moving onto their examination of the continent of Africa.

**8th grade:** I & S, we are currently studying the history of slavery in the Americas. We will then move on to discuss the British colonization of North America and the events that led up to the American Revolution.

### Math:

**6th grade:** math we are wrapping up our unit on ratios. Next time you go grocery shopping together, ask them about unit rate, and how they may be able to save you some money! We will be working on some prerequisite skills before moving into percentages, decimals, and fractions.

**7th Grade:** Math and Pre-Algebra will be exploring percentages this month. We will focus on real world connections to sales prices, discounts, percent increase and percent decrease. Look for these to talk about with your student.

8th Grade:

### Core+

#### Spanish:

**6th Grade:** Students are wrapping up Unit 1- Dice and will be completing 3 parts to their assessment, a listening section, reading section and then creating a comic strip to test their writing skills using the unit vocabulary! We will be finishing up November with a mini unit focusing on Colors while working collaboratively to create our own copies of Oso pardo, oso pardo, ¿qué ves ahí?: / Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?

**7th and 8th Grade:** Classes are working on wrapping up their first unit of the year which did a little review from last year and they continued in the SOMOS curriculum focusing on the new vocabulary son las (ocho) - it's (eight) o'clock, abre la puerta - opens the door, nunca cierra - never closes. If you are curious about the SOMOS curriculum check out this [description](#) on the creators website.

#### Visual Art:

In visual art classes we are learning to observe and describe what we see in artworks through VTS - Visual Thinking Strategies, exploring 2-D art media/materials, learning the Language of Art - The 7 Elements of Art and Design, and learning how to follow class agreements and expectations. We have had to adapt our lessons and units due to the dismantling of our kiln room (construction project) and the impending move of artwork, materials and resources to another classroom so that they can remodel our current classroom 131.

## What's happening in the classroom?

### Instrumental music:

Students are working hard to prepare for our Winter Concert on December 19th at 7pm! This is a required (graded) concert for all instrumental music students. Students will need to arrive by 6:30pm wearing all black. Please plan accordingly.

### Vocal Music/Musical Theater:

Choir and Musical theater students have been learning how to prepare for a performance. They will be continuing to work on music and preparation for our Winter Concert on December 7th at 7pm.

Phy. Ed: All three grades just started our Unit on Basketball and will be starting a Skating unit at the end of November! Please make sure your child turns in the [permission form](#) to skate in PE class, otherwise they will not be able to skate with us! Can't wait!

### CTE Classes:

**Intro to Culinary Arts:** 7th Grade Culinary arts students are focusing on breakfast right now! (Make sure those permission slips are in).

**Intro to Health Services:** We covered the body systems now we are talking about careers in the medical field!

**General 6th Grade FACE:** 6th Grade students are focusing on kitchen safety as we continue to have labs.

**6th Tech Ed/ Design:** We are finishing up an intro to the IB design cycle and Onshape 3D design with designing and 3D printing of a Halloween face. Next we will be starting a personal logo unit which we will be using 3D Design, 3D printing, and Laser etching.

**7th Engineering and Prototyping:** We are finishing up an intro to the IB design cycle and Onshape 3D design with designing and 3D printing of a Halloween face. Next we are moving into our mousetrap car unit in which we will be designing, building, and testing a toy car that is powered by a mousetrap.

**8th Construction and Fabrication:** We are finishing up an intro to the IB design cycle and Onshape 3D design with designing and 3D printing of a Halloween face. Next we will be moving into a wall construction unit where the students will be designing, building, and labeling a scaled down exterior wall for a house.

# Phoenix Focus

## What's Happening in the Classroom?

### Title 1:

#### Power Math:

The students finished their "Dream House" floor maps and learned a lot about area & perimeter. During November we will be working on the "Order of Operations".

Grades for Power Math have changed this year from letter grades to Pass/Fail. This is effective beginning in Quarter 1.

Literacy: Literacy classes use a Pass (P) or Fail (F) grading system. This is new this year. We are currently working on finding Main Idea and Details, as well as learning the updated Read 180 Program.

## Athletics

Boys Volleyball has begun you can see their game schedule [here](#).

All Athletic forms and information can be found on the RUSD website-  
<https://rusd.org/students/athletics-activities/middle-school-athletics-activities>

## Occupational Therapy

### Planning & Problem Solving Executive Functioning Activities

- [Rubik's Cubes](#)
- Brain teaser puzzles & [logic problems](#)
- [Strategy-based board games](#) (checkers, Battleship, chess, Settlers of Catan, or Ticket to Ride)
- Writing weekly, monthly or even yearly plans. Can help children foresee conflicts of interest or changes in routines, prompts them to plan ahead and problem solve.
- Geocaching and/or orienteering
- Scavenger hunts derived from a series of clues
- Yoga
- Martial Arts (especially traditional variations with character-building elements)
- Dance
- [Concentration card game](#)
- Red light, green light
- [Jump rope](#) games & complicated variants (double dutch, chinese jump rope)
- Hide & Seek, plus dim lighting versions like Flashlight Tag or Manhunt
- Laser Tag, paintball, & hunting for older children
- Learning a musical instrument
- Reading books like [L.Spy](#)

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## Starbuck Middle an IB World School

**November 2023**

IB Learner Profile Trait of the month: **Thinker**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Milwaukee Admirals Trip PBIS Fall Ball 4-6 PM	<b>9</b> Dine and Donate Panda Express 10:30am-9pm <u>No School PL Day</u>	<b>10</b> <u>No School PL Day</u>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> PTSA Meeting @7pm	<b>15</b> Game Night at Starbuck All School	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Holiday Folk Fair Trip	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Thanks	<b>23</b> Giving	<b>24</b> Break	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> MYP Parent info night 6-7pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		