Trailblazer of the Month

Each month, the Lewis and Clark faculty selects students from each team to be Trailblazer of the Month. These students consistently demonstrate positive attitudes, a willingness to contribute and consistency in striving to do their best. They are recognized as outstanding all around representatives of Lewis and Clark. Congratulations to the following Trailblazers of the Month:

**September: Evalina Sain, Kaleciana Perry, Jose Haros Monroy, Jr., Isabel Walocha, and Chloe Riddle.**

**October: Javin (JT) Rogers, Frances Carlson, Alsafa Alkhalil, Edward Hamilton Wilson, and Parker Kovar.**

**November: Avery Gilbreath, Savanna Phillips, Dakota Leiviska, Alex (Sasha) Krasnoslobodtsev, and Aiden Campbell.**

Attendance matters

Students who miss as little as two days a month are at risk of not graduating from high school. Even strong students with good grades in elementary school can quickly fall off course in middle and high school if they miss a few classes. Lessons build on one another and move more quickly in the upper grades. They risk failing their classes! [www.attendanceworks.org](http://www.attendanceworks.org)

Explorers

6th grade science with Mrs. Larson has certainly been chugging along in the weather department. Your budding young meteorologists should be able to explain the symbols on a weather map to you and make some predictions from them. Their weather book that they have been putting together this quarter is a summative project that they can take home for future references when severe season starts this spring. January we begin to dive into the human body. Reminder, if you have any questions email me is the easiest and quickest way to get a response from me. lisam.larson@ops.org

Pathfinders

In Mrs. LaFleur’s Math 7 classes the students are just starting their unit on fractions. They will be working with fractions for the next three to four weeks and then move into expressions to finish out the semester. The students need to continue working hard, so they can get their homework turned in on time. Many students have been making great strides in math class and should keep up the positive attitude and work. In Pre-Algebra the students are working on their unit over scatter plots and getting ready to start slope. They just wrapped up equations and that was a tough unit for many. All the Pathfinder students will be completing the MAP in January again to see how much growth they have made over the first semester. When the students get back from winter break, they will be starting their geometry unit and gearing up for the state test in late March, early April. Please if you have any questions about your students’ progress email me at Kelly.lafleur@ops.org.

Pathfinder Humanities

In the start of second quarter in Mr. Tietz’s Humanities, we have journeyed from Southwest Asia over the Suez Canal in Egypt to learn about Africa. So far in our travels we have looked at the world’s largest desert called the Sahara. Did you know that the Sahara Desert is the size of the United States? From there we traveled to the south to see a unique area of West Africa called the Sahel. Next we toured east Africa and caught glimpse of Mt. Kilimanjaro (the tallest mountain in Africa) and the Great Rift Valley. Lastly, we voyaged to central and south Africa. Here we learned all about the Serengeti, and learned about the many different animals that thrive in this area. Along our journey we also learned about how Africa’s past has shaped their culture. We learned about how salt was worth as much as gold, and how one word: TRADE opened Africa to the rest of the world. This has been a great adventure so far and encourage you to ask your children about their trek across Africa. We have also partnered with a non-profit organization call African Culture Connection (A.C.C.) to help give us a primary resource about life in Africa. They will give us real life hands-on experiences such as drumming, dancing, textile making, and stamping that will enhance our knowledge of Africa. Make sure to ask about their adventures with A.C.C. We are truly blessed to have A.C.C. working will ALL pathfinder classes this year!

In this quarter in Mrs. Rinn’s science classes, we will learn how the Periodic Table is organized. Students will show their understanding by creating their own Periodic Table of Ordinary Things. In the next quarter, we will examine and categorize mixtures of substances. Students will learn that substances retain their properties in a mixture and use properties to propose methods to separate mixtures, such as sand and water. Students will also study chemical reactions and use evidence of a change in properties to identify chemical reactions. I encourage you to continue to check Infinite Campus, the online grade system, with your son/daughter to make sure they are completing their coursework. Students can access additional copies of assignment in Teams under the File section.
Mrs. Witherell’s seventh grade Pre-algebra classes have completed the units 0—consisting of fractions, decimals, and integers, unit 1-the real number system, unit 2—covering equations with one variable. Students are currently studying in unit 3—consisting of equations with two variables. Students will complete unit 4 - analyzing scatter plots the month of December. Students will use their math reasoning skills as they create and analyze data.

Mrs. Witherell and Mrs. Wing have been covering units involving ratios, rates, proportions, integers, and percents during the first half of the semester in Math 7. Students have just started the unit on rational numbers such as fractions. Students tend to have a homework task 2-3 days a week in their math class. Please check Infinite Campus to make sure your child is completing and turning in their assignments. Reminder that students have the opportunity to complete quiz corrections to enhance their quiz scores during the unit of study. If you do not have a parent portal account for Infinite Campus, please contact Mrs. Tingelhoff to sign up for an account, 531-299-8980 or email her at lisa.tingelhoff@ops.org

It is important to remind students to use their agenda to help them organize within their academics world, as well as extracurriculars. School supplies, such as, paper, folders, pencils, pens, lead, erasers and etc… have been less visible in the classroom. These items help ensure that the students are prepared to learn and will aide in their success in the middle schools classroom. Team Navigators is still in need of and accepting school supplies. Additional items would include disinfectant wipes, tissue, and ziploc baggies. Any donated items can be sent to Keri Witherell in room 109 and will be shared with Navigator team members.

I can’t believe we are almost at the end of the first semester. Time sure flies when you are having fun in Mrs. Mihai’s classes. We have been working on changes in states of matter over the last few weeks. We will be completing a project next week for the unit. After changes in states of matter, we will be moving into introducing the Periodic Table of Elements, what elements are and how elements come together through chemical reactions to create compounds through chemical reactions. We will end the semester with a project and a lab. After winter break, we will be moving into Matter in the Ecosystem. Please remember that I am after school Tuesdays and Thursdays until 5:00 to let students get help or catch up on missing work. Hope your year is going well. Have a great winter break.”

Pride

In Mrs. Sinnett’s Language Arts 7 classes, the theme for Unit 2 is “Perception and Reality”. Students will explore how things in life are not always how we perceive them to be. A selection of stories will be read, including the play “Sorry, Wrong Number.” The performance task for this unit will be to research and write a summary about this play. Then students will create a multimedia presentation of their essay to share with others. Another resource being used this year is the Close Reader workbook. Students will complete selected stories in the Close Reader, which reinforces skills by reading and rereading text. Selections include “Heartbeat” and “A Christmas Carol”.

The theme for Unit 2 in Language Arts 8 is "The Thrill of Horror". Students will examine why the horror genre both terrifies and fascinates. A selection of stories will be read, including "The Tell Tale Heart" and “The Monkey’s Paw”. The performance task for this unit will be to create a powerpoint about an author and story from the horror genre.

Another resource being used this year is the Close Reader workbook. Students will complete selected stories in the Close Reader, which reinforces skills by reading and rereading text. Selections include a poem “Frankenstein” and “Man-Made Monsters”.

Pioneers

Hey Pioneers!!! So far we have been having an exciting time in ELA with Mrs. Mitchell! We have completed our Culture and Belonging unit and are now studying The Thrill of Horror. This has been a fascinating quarter full of suspense and intrigue. We have been reading all kinds of scary stories—"The Tell-Tale Heart," "The Monkey's Paw," and "Frankenstein." We will be wrapping up this unit before Thanksgiving break. When we return, we will read Gary Paulsen’s Nightjohn.

In Study Skills classes with Ms. Selk we will continue to work on developing and practicing effective strategies for being a successful student. If you have any questions and/or concerns regarding your child’s academic progress please feel free to contact me. Theresa.selk@ops.org or 531-299-8952

Lewis and Clark School-wide Expectations: We are Safe, Respectful, and Responsible. When students show appropriate behaviors, they are given Blazer Bucks that can be used at the Blazer Bucks Store. Each week, we draw a buck out of the ones spent, and the student and teacher receive a prize.

Winners for the last four weeks:
Week of 11/11: Marwa and Mrs. Medeiros
Week of 11/4: Penelope and Ms. Jorgensen
Week of 10/28: Adna M. and Mrs. Kisby
Week of 10/21: Jovana and Mrs. Shrago

Physical Science/ Honors Science

Physical Science student’s with Mrs. Lostaglia-Hoskovec are studying chemical bonding and working toward designing an experiment to speed up and slow down the rate of a reaction in real time!

Honors Science 7 is investigating different ecosystems and how changes to the environment can impact the species within an ecosystem.

International Languages

¡Hola! Es importante que los estudiantes hacen la tarea y estudian mucho para la clase de español. Please have your child translate that sentence for you and explain to you what a cognate is and how it helps in their knowledge of the Spanish language in Señora Therkelsen’s classes.
The students have learned the verbs ser (to be) and gustar (to like) at this point. They are able to describe, tell time and express likes and dislikes. We will be testing Unit 2 on 12/11/2019 and 12/12/2019. Please make sure your child is studying a little bit each night. Prior to winter break, we will also complete a mini cultural unit on Las Posadas, the Mexican Christmas tradition.

The initial information and permission slips for the Worlds of Fun trip on Saturday, May 2nd, 2020 will be handed out when we return from Winter Break. The permission slip and money will be due anytime between January 7th, 2020 and March 6th, 2020. NO permission slips or money will be accepted after March 6th as we have to solidify our numbers with both the charter company and Worlds of Fun.

Please feel free to contact me anytime (531)299-8999 or heather.therkelser@ops.org. ¡Hasta pronto! Señora Therkelser

Spanish Flex with Dr. Cuartero is providing students with skills-based instruction in reading, listening, writing and speaking in Spanish. We have had three months of lessons by now and we are learning a lot about Spanish language and culture. We do a variety of activities every day in order to increase the knowledge of the Spanish language and its heritage. In these three months, we have done some projects about Spanish culture and we have learned Spanish words and sentences: Numbers (0-1000), Spanish greetings, Spanish alphabet, days of the week, months of the year, seasons, introductions, human body, colors, animals, family, food, clothes, adjectives, Spanish countries, Spanish legends, Day of the Dead and the house.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at raquel.cuarteroarina@ops.org. Thank you in advance for all your support and encouragement at home. Regards, Raquel Cuartero Arina

Dr. Cuartero’s Spanish 1 is providing students with skills-based instruction in reading, listening, writing and speaking in Spanish. We have had three months of lessons by now and we are learning a lot about Spanish language and culture. We do a variety of activities every day in order to increase the knowledge of the Spanish language and its heritage.

In these three months, we have learnt: seasons, months of the year, days of the week, colors, Spanish alphabet, numbers (1-1000), How to ask and answer about personal information (name, age, place of residence, telephone number…), greetings, subject pronouns, definite and indefinite articles, verb to be, how to tell the time, Spanish culture., facts about Spain, Puerto Rico and Mexico, Spanish countries and capitals, Day of the Dead, Quinceañeras, Spanish countries, capitals, population and currencies, classroom vocabulary, adjectives, I like/ I don’t like, main verbs (infinitive), food, and the weather.

Students can introduce themselves in Spanish and provide information about others.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at raquel.cuarteroarina@ops.org. Thank you in advance for all your support and encouragement at home. Regards, Raquel Cuartero Arina

I & I

Starting November 21st, 6th graders in Intro to Website Design with Mr. Rodenburg, will be entering the Evaluate Unit. In this unit, students will present their projects to the class and then reflect on their project. This reflection looks at their project requirements, their actions during the previous units of this project, and how their project could be improved.

Starting November 22nd, 7th graders in Foundations of Inventions & Innovations will be starting the Innovation Nation Unit. Week one, the students will research inventions and choose to modify one making it a new invention. Week two, they will do the prep work of drawing it from two different angles, writing a work schedule, and making a materials list. After each student creates their innovation the third week, the students will be reflecting on and evaluating themselves and their work.

Starting November 22nd, 8th graders in Inventions & Innovations will be starting the Impending Doom Unit, which is creating a scale model of the ground floor of their home with modifications to protect it from invaders. Week one, the students will research ways to protect their home and how to read blueprints. Week two, they will do the prep work of drawing it from two different angles, writing a work schedule, and making a materials list. After each student creates the project the third week, the students will be reflecting on and evaluating themselves and their work.

Honor’s Language Arts

A big thank you to all of the parents that attended parent teacher conferences in October. I know that sometimes my line is long, but that means that there are many parents involved in their child’s education. It is a team effort and I appreciate all of the support!

Honors Language Arts students with Mrs. Shrago have started History Day 2019-2020. The theme this year is Breaking Barriers in History. All students should be working hard on researching and gathering as much information on their topic as possible. Researching should continue through the end of the semester. Below, you will find the schedule to help your child stay on track.

History Day Tentative Schedule

November– Introduce History Day and begin research
December– Decide on product, work on getting supplies
Mid-January– Research complete, begin drawing conclusions, rough draft of product, begin final product, decide if going to competition ($15 entry fee)
February– Production time! Complete process paper and annotated bibliography
February 14- HISTORY DAY IS DUE!
Spring conferences– History Day Open House in Library
March 6– Omaha History Day Competition-MCC- South Campus
April – Nebraska State History Day Contest-Nebraska Wesleyan
June – National History Day-University of Maryland
Seventh grade Honors Language Arts students have been working on a short story unit. We will finish the semester with more short stories and researching for History Day.

Eighth grade Honors Language Arts students have also been working on a short story unit. We will finish the semester with some more short stories and researching for History Day.

Each quarter HLA students are expected to keep a reading log in their agenda with a total of 150 minutes read each week. Also, a genre tic-tac-toe should be completed each quarter. Quarter 2 due date is December 19 or 20.

Please feel free to contact me at anytime with questions or concerns via email melissa.shrago@ops.org or phone (531) 299-2400.

Entrepreneurship and Global Entrepreneurship

Wow is it the second quarter already? It seems like it was not too long ago that it was the first day of school and we were dealing with the summer heat. Now the first semester is almost over, and we are getting ready for a cold winter.

Your 7th-grade Entrepreneurship students with Mr. Johnson, have been learning what it takes to run a business and are working hard on their Business Plan PowerPoints. It is so much fun to see how creative the students have been with their Business Plan ideas and how invested they are in creating the Business of their dreams. Some things that students have had to do so far while creating their business plan is come up with a name, slogan, and symbol for their business. Students have also had to find a location where their business will be, create a product and price menu that they will display in their business, create a help wanted ad, learn how to conduct interviews, and even design a floor layout for their business. To end the semester, 7th-grade Entrepreneurship students will present their Business Plan PowerPoint to their classmates.

8th grade Global Entrepreneurship students just finished Part 3 of Unit 1. This unit teaches the students about gross domestic products, gross domestic products per capita and how to measure a country’s income. This was a great unit because it allowed the students to learn how a country’s definition of living is classified based on their GDP per capita. After learning about different country's standards of living students had to do research on a low-income country and describe the education and job opportunities that are in the low-income country that they researched. At the end of the unit, students created Vision Boards. This was a great activity because students were able to set 5, 10, and 15-year goals for their futures. They were also able to think about the careers that they want to have as adults and create a road map on how to get into these careers.

Our current unit focuses on productivity and the objective of this unit is to teach the Global Entrepreneurship students how a country can increase its income. Students will learn the importance of productivity and how productivity is the basic economic reason why some nations are rich and some nations are poor.

Please call, email, or stop by if you have questions or concerns.

Mr. Skyler Johnson E-Mail: skyler.johnson@ops.org Phone: 531-299-2400

Music Department

Congratulations to the Cast, Crew and Pit Orchestra who participated in this year’s musical of Mary Poppins Jr. on November 7th & 8th. The students worked very hard for two months preparing challenging vocal and instrumental music, dances, sets, lights and sound. Your teachers, Mr. and Mrs. Short and Mr. Hughes, are very proud of you!

Our Instrumental Music Department, which includes band, orchestra and guitar students will have their annual Winter Concert Thursday, December 5, 2019 at 7:00 PM in the Lewis and Clark Auditorium. Student call time is 6:30PM. Concert attire is dress clothes that are black, white and a splash of red. All are welcome!

Our Vocal Music Department will have their Winter Concert on Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 7:00PM in the Lewis and Clark Auditorium. Student call time is 6:30PM. Concert attire is dress clothes that are black, white and a splash of red. All are welcome!

Drama Department

The Lewis & Clark Drama Department with Mrs. Wiig, is excited to present our 2nd Annual Melodrama. This fun and silly event is fun for the whole family. This is the only LC Drama event that sells out, so look for more information on our social media threads as December 6th nears!

Lewis and Clark Melodrama

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From the Library

Lewis and Clark is committed to bringing unique learning opportunities to our students and we are pleased to introduce Sora, a free reading service providing digital books and e-books.

Why Sora? The collection of titles in Sora is an extension of Lewis and Clark’s physical library, only it’s in an app with 24/7 access to ebooks and audiobooks. It’s convenient for students to check out titles at home, on the weekends or during school breaks with no worry about misplacing a book or running up late fees — these digital titles automatically return at the end of the lending period!

Sora can help students of all ages read more and improve comprehension. Struggling or reluctant readers, learning-challenged, second language learners, and gifted readers can all benefit from this service.

Enrich vocabulary and improve comprehension and pronunciation
Introduce students to books above their reading level
Teach critical listening
Help busy kids find time to read
Incentivize reading with fun avatars and achievements
Allow easy access to the Omaha Public Library’s collection, too! (in the Sora menu select: +Add a public library)

How does it work? Download the free Sora app from the Apple App store, Google Play Store or visit soraapp.com. Borrow with your child’s ID and birthday PIN, and enjoy anytime, anywhere on a computer, tablet, or smartphone.

From the Health Office:

First of all: Welcome to the new Health Aid Michele Lewis. She has been a great addition to the staff of Lewis and Clark Middle School, specifically.

Cold and Flu season is here!! Good handwashing with soap and water is the best prevention, the use of hand sanitizers, are also effective-monitor small child use. Covering your mouth with a tissue or coughing into your sleeve or arm when coughing helps also. When students are ill with vomiting, diarrhea, severe runny nose, cough, or fever of 100 degrees or more, they should not come to school. These are general guidelines the school nurse uses in determining who needs to be sent home from school, so please assess your child before sending them to school, and keep them home if they are ill. Cold medications, Tylenol or Ibuprofen can help ease some of the symptoms such as headaches, stuffy nose, or cough and should be administered at home before coming to school, or, can be given at school but only with a doctor’s order, parent permission form signed and if you bring the medication in properly labeled container. Send students to school with tissues and a water bottle if coughing a lot. The nurse can give them a pass to carry and drink water during school day, if needed. Wearing proper outerwear for the weather conditions is also a preventive measure; layering of clothes is appropriate so layers can be added if cold, or removed if hot.

Flu shots are generally recommended for anyone with respiratory problems such as asthma, or if immune system is compromised by chronic illness. Consult your health care provider regarding recommendation for your child. Flu shots can be obtained from your health care provider or at flu immunization clinics at local supermarkets, and pharmacies throughout the city.

As part of the school’s Wellness plan, we are asking students to have a good breakfast to start their day. Breakfast is the most important meal of the day; our brains need fuel to function well. Breakfast is served every morning at school between 7:15 am and 7:33 am and there is no charge. I see many students with complaints of headache and stomach aches, and when asked what they had for breakfast, many times the answer is “nothing”. I feel many of these students just need some food in them and they would be fine. Please assist the school in encouraging good nutrition for your child by making breakfast important.

Reminder to parents of students with asthma—a new Asthma Action Plan (AAP) is required every school year. If you have not provided an inhaler with a doctor’s orders or AAP and signed parent permission form, you need to do this as soon as possible. Asthma symptoms flare or are triggered by colds, flu and cold air, in many cases. You will be contacted and asked to bring an inhaler to school for your child to use if they present at nurse’s office with respiratory complaints and an inhaler and proper authorization is not here. Asthma can be life threatening, and having an inhaler available quickly, can make all the difference!

Nebraska School Law requires all students to have varicella and MMR shots with 1st shot after the age of 1, and at least one Td (tetanus diphtheria and pertussis booster. Pertussis (whooping cough) is a serious respiratory disease that can be fatal in infants and small children especially. Adults caring for infants and small children should be immunized with Tdap to assist in preventing its spread. Schools in Sarpy and Douglas County now reporting cases of whooping cough (Pertussis) and Douglas County Health Department is investigating a “potential outbreak” of Hepatitis A. Protect yourself and your child with vaccinations. Varicella (chicken pox)-all students including those transferring to OPS from out of state or district must have had the chicken pox disease or been vaccinated. Documentation in writing from parent or health care provider of the month and year of disease or the immunization record is required. If the student is age 12 or younger, one shot is enough, if age 13 or older before receiving the first vaccination, then 2 shots a month apart is required.

When your child receives any immunizations please send the immunization records to the school nurse. If your child has not received all the required immunizations, please do so as soon as possible. Notices are being mailed to parents of students not in compliance with the required immunizations or do not have physicals on file. Please attend to the matter and provide the requested documentation as soon as possible, as students will be excluded from school if these are not received in a timely manner. Thank you for your cooperation in getting information to school nurse.

Nebraska School Law requires each student have a physical examination upon entrance to 7th grade or upon transfer into the district from a district outside of the state. Please check with your child to be sure they have turned in the required physical and are not carrying it around in their backpack. Seventh grade physicals need to be done on or after March 1st, 2019 for the 2019-20 school year. Physicals done on or after this date will be sports eligible for the entire 2019-20 school year. Eighth and ninth grade physicals need to be completed on or after May 1st 2019 for the 19-20 school year. Physicals done before this date will need to be updated on a yearly basis, to maintain eligibility.

Health screening: seventh grade students are required to have a physical. Seventh grade students without physicals will be screened for Vision, Hearing, Dental and Height/Weight. These screenings are done at various times throughout the school year, generally in November and March or April, at Lewis and Clark. You will be notified via a Health screening report, if your child has difficulty with vision or hearing, or if dental need identified. A dental exam is recommended every 6
months, yearly at a minimum. Please provide note from dentist to the school when they are seen.

Here’s hoping everyone a healthy, happy fall and winter season. Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns. Nurse Howeth and Health Aid Michele Lewis 531-299-2419.

Lewis and Clark Social Worker

Please contact our School Social Worker, Kim Schenkelberg, at 4531-299-5902 for holiday assistance programs.

Lewis and Clark Food Drive!

During the week of December 2 – 6 students are encouraged to participate in a food drive. This will be a fun competition and the top two Homebase classes will earn a popcorn! Students are welcome to bring canned foods such as fruit, vegetables, Raviolios, SpaghettiOs, Beefaroni, tuna, Whole Jalapeno Peppers, Green Pickled Sliced Jalapeno Peppers, etc. Items such as Salt, Pepper, Turmeric, Cumin, Oregano, and bouillon (Chicken, Shrimp and Tomato) are also helpful.

There is a special need for the following items that will count as double:

- Rice (Basmati, Jasmine, White Long Grain), Dried Beans (Kidney, Lima, Black, Brown, Pinto), Maseca Corn Flour, Lentils, Dried Chickpeas, Dried Black-eyed Peas, Shrimp Paste, Fish Paste, Oil (Vegetable, Peanut or Mazola).

Please have students bring donated food items to their Homebase between December 2nd and 6th. Thank you!

Box Tops for Education

Support Lewis and Clark by clipping box tops. Our school earns ten cents for each box top collected. Here is a list of some of the brands that may have box tops: General Mills, Pillsbury, Betty Crocker, Nature Valley, Cascadian Farm, and Ziploc. For a current list please visit the website boxtops4education.com. Keri Witherell (room 109) will be collecting the box tops throughout the school year. Thank you for your support.