



Grade 8 Newsletter March 14, 2008

What we did the last two weeks:

Science – Ms. Riffle

Students finished chapter 8, exploring the nature of collision theory as it affects the rate of reactions and exothermic and endothermic reactions. Students took their Chapter 8 exam and completed a lab on single replacement reactions. We are finishing our last chapter of Chemistry this month, solution Chemistry, which serves as a capstone of the Chemistry we have learned this year in acid and base reactions.

Math – Ms. Riffle

Students completed sections on factoring by grouping, how to use different strategies to factor polynomials and problem solving. Students took their chapter 5 exam. The students will complete some cumulative review of chapters 1-5 before we move on to chapter 6, which deals with algebraic fractions.

Spanish – Mr. Dilworth

Students in 8th grade Spanish have been studying vocabulary relating to shopping and running errands to places like the post office, the library and the bank. They have learned how to conjugate regular –ar, –er, and ir verbs in the preterite tense. They also were introduced to irregular verbs like *ir*, *ser*, and *hacer* in the preterite. The unit test was scheduled for yesterday, but had to be postponed until next week because I was out sick.

Social Studies – Mr. Dilworth

The 8th graders began their study of Asia by learning about India. They studied the geography of the subcontinent as well as its history and culture, with a special look at the religions found in India – those of the Hindus, Muslims, Jains, Buddhists, Sikhs and Parsis. Ms. Riffle, who as a student did research in southern India, brought several interesting artifacts to our class and told us about her time there. After finishing India, we will be moving on to learn about China.

Talmud – Rabbi Levine

Selling a synagogue turns out to be harder to figure out than it first seemed. It turns out that there are city synagogues and village synagogues. There are even city synagogues that are privately owned, and village-like communities with their own synagogues in the midst of large cities. Evidently, even the possibility that a synagogue could get a case of moldy stuff on its walls provides a clue to its ownership!

Lashon – Yardena Winkler

We finished the last pages of the Negev Unit, reviewed grammatical forms and structures of *Pa'al*, *Pi'el*, *Hifeel* and *Hitpa'el* and the grammar from pages 64 and 73 (*oto, ota, otam, otan* and *bo, ba, bahem, bahen*). We took part of the test, on grammar, on Friday and on Monday we'll continue with the test on text comprehension.. We learned the song on page 70 (*L'midbar*). We are planning a Unit party in our classroom next week together with our friends from Miri's class. We will sing and dance the *L'midbar* song and play the Map game on page 75. After Purim we will start the Unit on the Dead Sea.

Lashon – Miri

We continued studying the unit on the Dead Sea, and we finished reading chapter 3 of the book "Uri". The chapter relates the involvement of the Jewish underground during the British Mandate, and how the main character, Uri, a fifteen-year old boy contributed to the struggle. We also reviewed the traditions and customs of Purim. In the "door-Adar" competition, I appreciate the hard work of all the students that contributed to our second place finish.