



NEWSLETTER

March 20, 2026

Principal: Barbara Gerard
<http://matsuk12.us/acc>

Phone: 907-746-2358
Fax: 907-746-2368

Dear Academy Families,



Next Thursday, our annual Academy Ski Day will occur! (No school on Friday due to the extended work and learning day on Thursday.)

A couple things to remember:



Arrival Times:

We are divided into 3 time slots. We encourage everyone to arrive at least 10 minutes early so that you are walking into the lodge at your appointed time slots.

1. 9:00 am - Group with Last Names A – G,
2. 9:20 am - Group with Last Names H – N,
3. 9:35 am - Group with Last Names O – Z.

(CAUTION! If you arrive late, and miss your scheduled last name time, you will need to wait until 9:50 am to enter and get your family's gear.)

LESSON TIMES:

If your student is signed up for lessons, please note these times!

1. **Students ages 6 through 18** - students who are signed up for lessons will start at 10:00am. **All levels, board and/or ski, will start at the same time--10 am** Alyeska is hopeful that everyone will be able to do the morning lessons, but if they don't have enough instructors, some may have to be put in afternoon classes. Afternoon classes start at 1:00pm. We will not know until we arrive.

Academy's Day Ends at 3:30 pm

Over the years, we have learned that by approximately 3:30 pm, the students grow tired, and they are more likely to fall and/or have an accident by catching a ski edge, etc. Academy's staff will clear all the students off the mountain at 3:30 pm.

Stay Longer?

Families are welcome to stay longer; however, at 3:30 pm, a parent or guardian must assume full responsibility of their student. If you are planning to stay longer, a *parent and/or guardian will need to come to the Day Lodge area to sign for their student* prior to resuming their skiing or snowboarding on the mountain. We apologize for the inconvenience! **(ONLY students that are staying longer need to be signed out to their guardian or parent.** If you are going home at 3:30 pm, you do NOT need to sign out your student, ONLY sign out to stay on the mountain skiing.)

Appropriate Academy School Behavior Expected

All students are expected to follow all schoolwide expectations while at Alyeska, in the Day Lodge, and on the mountain. Students are to behave in a manner that is respectful and kind to all other skiers and boarders. Should a student fail to behave in a manner that makes Academy proud, they may receive a warning. A second warning will cause the student to simply be sent home from Academy's Ski Day.

I do not expect this to be an issue. However, should you see an Academy student behaving in a dangerous or disrespectful manner, please feel free to speak up and remind them of Academy's expectations. Then immediately stop and text me. (907-841-5704) Together we can! Together we do!

Thank you!

Thank you again for your continued support—we are a team. We love watching our students grow, gain confidence, and master their skiing and snowboarding skills. We are grateful to share this wonderful day together as an Academy community.

With Warm Regards,

Barbara Gerard, Principal

907-841-5704

Barbara.Gerard@matsuk12.us

Date:	Event:
3/26	Alyeska Ski Day
3/27	No School due to Extended Ski Day
3/31-4/2	6 th Grade Juneau Trip



- Paint the stairwell in the two-story building.
- Spanish Lab could use a helper April 8, 9, and 10th from 1:15-3:00pm. April 8th is 5th grade, April 9th is 3rd grade, and April 10th is 4th grade. Please email Cady.Agoff@matsuk12.us to sign up!
- 2nd Semester Friday lunch sign-up sheets are up in the front office! **If you are available between 11:45 and 12:25pm on Fridays, please sign up!**

Kindergarten



It was so great to welcome students back! They got straight to work adding ten new words to their Spalding notebooks and learning two new phonograms. Our new ones are three letter I-igh and two letter N-kn. We learned some of Aesop's fables and how

they taught a lesson about our behavior. Students also illustrated a poem called Jennifer Juniper. It has a very spring like vibe, which is what I am hoping for.

In math we worked on measuring length and were introduced to rulers and inches. They have been doing a lot of work, and we are proud of them.

Next week is Academy Ski Day. There are no regular classes for students on Thursday or Friday.

Have a great weekend!!

Mrs. Berg

Verona.Berg@matsuk12.us



hello FIRST GRADE

FIRST-GRADE HIGHLIGHTS:

- Core-Knowledge poem about George Washington.
- Comprehension work with the Core-Knowledge story, "The Little Half Chick Medio Pollito."
- Paragraph writes about Spring Break.
- Double-digit subtraction with regrouping, always asking the question if you need to regroup or not. Subtracting from teen numbers has proven to be difficult so feel free to practice that more at home!

Contact us anytime!

Mrs. Mayer & Mrs. Drummond

Betsy.Mayer@matsuk12.us

Jessica.Drummond@matsuk12.us



2ND GRADE

We've had another great week of learning in second grade!

In math, students explored line plots and practiced reading graphs. They learned how to interpret data, ask questions about what they see, and draw conclusions from graphs.



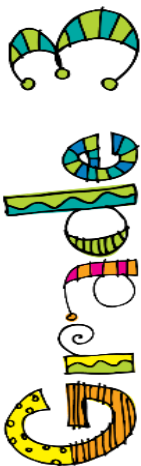
In literacy, we focused on interjections and how they add emotion and expression to our writing (wow!). We also worked on deciphering the meaning of unknown words using context clues, helping students become stronger, more independent readers.

Mrs. Saunders and Mrs. Kramer

Erin.Saunders@matsuk12.us

Kimberly.Kramer@matsuk12.us

Grimes Gambit



Language Arts - We began Unit 10: Colonial America this week. In *Living in Colonial America*, students learned about additional English leaders and settlements, how colonists sometimes worked together with Native Americans, and the arrival of the Puritans at Plymouth, Massachusetts. Students also added new words from Spalding List R to their Spalding notebooks and continued practicing spelling and word study skills. We also focused on the prefixes uni-, bi-, tri-, and multi-, exploring how they change the meaning of words. We also practiced comparative and superlative adverbs, learning how to use more and most when comparing actions. It was a great week of learning!

Math - This week, we began learning about fractions! Students were introduced to unit fractions, the terminology of numerator and denominator, and how fractions can represent parts of a whole as well as parts of a set. Students are also doing a fantastic job building their fact fluency. They continue to make great progress on their 5-minute multiplication and division tests and are working hard to move through their ALEKS topics. Keep up the great work!

Mrs. Grimes Austin.Grimes@matsuk12.us

The Glanville Weekly



Language Arts: We began Unit 10 on Colonial America! This week, students explored the 13 original colonies, the mystery of the Roanoke Island colony, and the founding of Jamestown. They also learned about key historical figures, including John Smith, the Powhatan people, and Pocahontas. Ask your student: Why is Roanoke Island not considered the 14th successful colony?

Throughout this unit, students will continue to study important historical events and locations while making connections by reading historical fiction stories about children living during those times. We also introduced narrative writing, which will help prepare students for their end-of-unit project.

Students completed their weekly 30-word spelling test. There will be no spelling list sent home this week, as we will be taking our monthly spelling assessment next week.

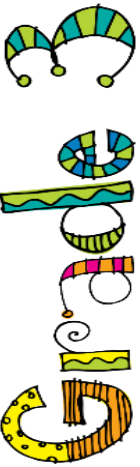
Math: Fractions have officially begun in 3rd grade! This week, students learned about the difference between the numerator and the denominator (the whole), unit fractions, dividing shapes into equal parts, and understanding parts of a whole. They are doing a great job building confidence and realizing that fractions aren't as intimidating as they may seem!

We will continue working on fractions next week before transitioning into geometry.

Students are also making great progress in mastering their multiplication and division facts through daily five-minute practice tests. It has been wonderful to see their growth! In addition, we continued working in ALEKS as students work on topics to complete their 3rd-grade learning pie.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out.

Mrs. Glanville Megan.Glanville@matsuk12.us



FOURTH GRADE

Benbow's Buzz



Nielsen's News:

Thank you, families, for your flexibility while Mrs. Nielsen is out with a family emergency. Mrs. Gulley has been wonderful covering for her this week.

ELA-

- Reading- We are almost done with Treasure Island! It is hard to put it down each day.
- Writing: Students are working hard to finish their narratives this week. They are focusing on conclusions that wrap-up the story after a climax/solution to the character's original problem. The goal is to publish next week.
- Spalding- We started list S and focused on Rule 14 and 29
- Grammar: Students practiced homophones this week.

Math- This week we ended standard measurement with a couple days on time (converting time and problems with elapsed time). We switched gears and began our unit on metric measurement the second half of the week.

Mrs. Nielsen Laurie.Nielsen@matsuk12.us

- Please make sure to reach out if your student will be missing school! Not only do we have end of year testing coming up, but we are also about to start working on our geology unit, which directly relates to our World Fair theme this year!

- **Language Arts** - We spent this week diving into Robinson Crusoe! Since these chapters are so short, we are reading two each night, discussing the events the next day in class, and then adding to the maps and journals we are creating to demonstrate our versions of the story! Please remember that there is a minimum daily requirement of reading for at least 30 minutes every day for all fourth graders! We will continue to practice sentence writing every morning, which consists of identifying and correcting fragments and run-on sentences, as well as unscrambling sentences and writing all four sentence types. We are practicing adding dependent clauses that provide contextual information during our spelling lessons. Additionally, our Daily Language Review topics this week are choosing the correct verb tense, identifying relative pronouns and adverbs, order of adjectives and sentence revision.

- **Math** - We reviewed measuring and drawing angles, then moved on to classifying triangles by sides and angles. We also learned that all triangles have a maximum of 180 degrees total for their inner angles. After we finished triangles, we moved on to polygons to wrap up the geometry unit. Automatic recall is vital to success in fourth grade math, even as we work through fractions! Although we will continue to practice multiplication facts every day in class, I do ask that you to make sure that your child finds time at home to practice as well. Just a few minutes a day can make such a difference.

- Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns!
cherie.benbow@matsuk12.us

5TH GRADE

The Manley Minute:

Language Arts: This week we entered 30 words in our Spalding notebooks and took our spelling test on Thursday. We also continued our study of the Renaissance. We explored several famous artists and their masterpieces, including the Sistine Chapel, *Madonna of the Grand Duke*, *The Last Supper*, *Pietà*, and *The School of Athens*. Students not only learned about these incredible works of art but also took time to reflect on why they are still admired today. In addition to studying the Renaissance, we have been reviewing different types of sentences to make our writing more interesting. Students used their spelling list to create new sentences and practice using FANBOYS, SWABI, and THAMOs. Ask your student which one their favorite was!

Math: This week in math, we have begun our next chapter on multiplying and dividing fractions. Students are learning how to solve problems using a variety of strategies, with a strong emphasis on understanding *why* the math works. One way is by using visual models. Students have been shading fraction models to match their equations. I've had the privilege of seeing some "light bulb" moments as students make connections. It is a "race to the finish line" for completing their 5th grade ALEKS pie. The top 5 positions on the leader board are just 3% apart! With hard work and perseverance, I am confident that ALL students can finish their pie this year!

Mrs. Manley Patsy.Manley@matsuk12.us

Sturgis Super Students!

We are going to try to squeeze in a few more spelling tests before the end of the year, so next week's test will be on Tuesday. Spelling lists went home on Wednesday. Please let me know if your child needs another copy.

To follow up our Renaissance unit, we are taking a look at an adaptation of the popular Shakespeare play, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. So far, the students have worked on reading Shakespearean language with expression and finding strategies to decode these difficult passages. They are also acting as "Course Smoother" and writing advice to various characters in the play to help them deal with problems that have arisen. These writings require students to look at the text and use inferences to construct their response.

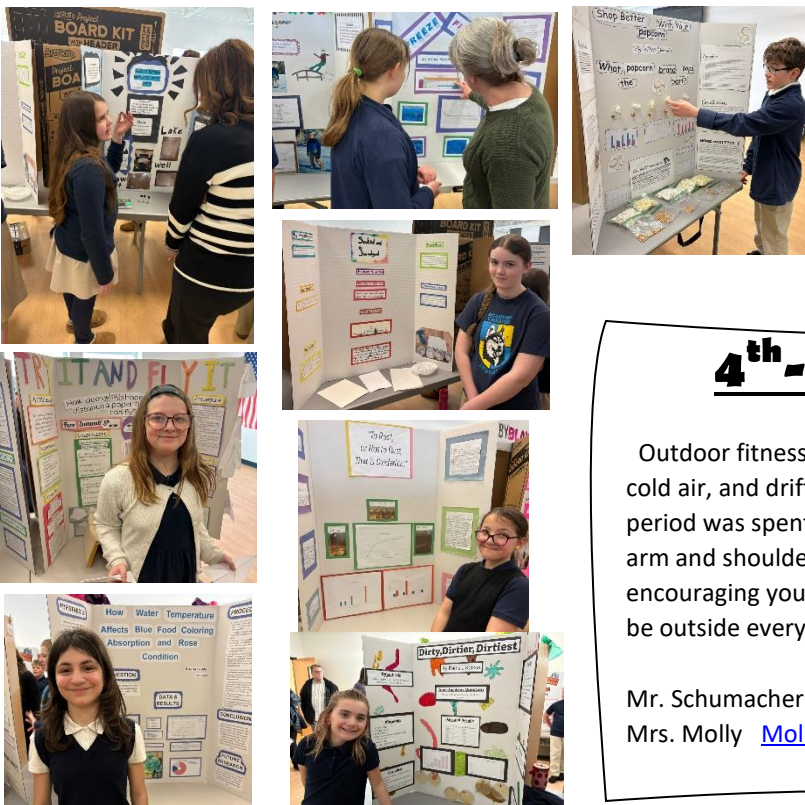
Math-- We are almost to the end of Chapter 11! The class has worked on converting both metric and customary measurements, as well as learning how to put data on a line plot and use that data to determine fair share.

Mrs. Sturgis
Sabra.Sturgis@matsuk12.us

SCHUMACHER MATH

This week my math students finished tests in fraction operation skills, mastered a quiz on statistics & displays, presented our categorical and statistical survey slideshows, and tested out a geometry and algebra program called Geogebra. We began our balloon car project which involves measurement, rate calculation and graphs, applying geometry & algebra skills, experimenting with a few physics concepts, and attempting to use the scientific method to improve car performance. It's a challenging project, but I encourage you to let your child profit from their hard work and persistence without too much adult help.

Mr. Schumacher Jared.Schumacher@matsuk12.us



4th-8th Grade Outdoor Fitness

Outdoor fitness classes hiked, snowshoed, and biked this week. Fighting wind, cold air, and drifted snow early in the week, the trails improved slowly. Half the period was spent in the CrossFit gym for 7th and 8th grade students. They got an arm and shoulder workout including rope climbing, lifting, and pullups. Keep encouraging your child to bring in that warm winter gear on fitness days, they will be outside every class period that we're able.

Mr. Schumacher Jared.Schumacher@matsuk12.us
Mrs. Molly Molly.Nichols@matsuk12.us



K-5 Lab Classes



It's been a thoughtful and inspiring week in the art room!

Third grade spent time creating heartfelt "**get well soon**" cards for a classmate, showing kindness through their artwork.

Fourth grade is exploring **Medieval art** and designing beautiful **illuminated letters**, full of intricate patterns and detail.

Fifth grade is diving into the **Renaissance**, learning about **proportion and perspective** as they begin to draw more realistically. We're seeing so much creativity, care, and growth across all grade levels!

Mrs. Glanville and Mrs. Saunders



This has been our last week with K-2 for this rotation. First and second grade worked on creating poems and practiced using pronouns to replace nouns. Kindergarten has been writing sentences using their Spalding words along with trying to spell words on their own. They have also enjoyed illustrating their sentences.

Mrs. Sturgis

This week, Kindergartners read, acted out, and wrote rhyming words from the poems "The Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe" and "Little Miss Muffet." First graders wrote a quatrain. Second graders worked on writing a couplet and a quatrain.

Ms. Kile



Español with Señorita Catarina

Kindergartners have learned about Winnie the Pooh's and Dora's favorite colors and practiced speaking about their own favorite colors. First and second graders enjoyed using the wonderful Carnaval inspired masks created by their older siblings to express emotions and practice using emotional language.



Kindergarten tackled more coding. They are getting quite proficient at building programs and debugging incorrect and incomplete programs. They are practicing with the repeat code block for repeating patterns.

First Grade and Second Grade continued their google slide presentations, learning to change backgrounds and make transitions.

Mrs. Nielsen



3rd grade - Ancient Rome - Geography, people/social classes.

4th grade - Finished Alaska maps and began our unit on Medieval Islamic and African Empires.

2nd grade - Wrapped up the Civil War and began states and capitals study.

Mrs. Mayer & Mrs. Drummond



What a week! In third grade we finished our Mystery Science unit on Animals Through Time, exploring how scientists can make inferences about animal behavior through fossils. We "raced" dinosaurs on Wednesday!

Fourth grade transitioned from our Energy Conversions unit to the human body, finishing out a second day of wind turbine blade building and then continuing into a discussion of human respiration.

As for fifth grade: congratulations on finishing the science fair! Great work on your projects and presentations all around, and a special congratulations to our top three: Oconee Bell in first, Elias, in second, and Kendall in third. Next week we'll welcome the primary grades back. See you soon!

Ms. Heppner & Mr. Farring
Natalie.Heppner@matsuk12.us
Timothy.Farring@matsuk12.us



It's a 6th GRADE Thing

Sixth grade has been busy and engaged across all content areas! In Language Arts, both classes have begun reading our new novel *Refugee* by Alan Gratz. Students are diving into powerful stories that build empathy and deepen their understanding of global perspectives.

In Math, students are exploring statistics through fun, hands-on projects that help them collect, analyze, and interpret real data in meaningful ways.

In Social Studies, Mr. Chadwell's class has wrapped up their government projects—great work to all students for their thoughtful presentations!

We are also continuing to prepare for our upcoming Juneau trip. Students have been researching Alaska's senators and representatives as they get ready for our meetings at the Capitol. We are excited for this incredible real-world learning opportunity!

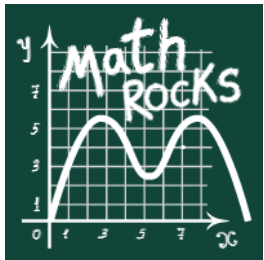
Have a great weekend!

Mr. Chadwell and Mrs. Zerkel Jordan.Chadwell@matsuk12.us Katherine.Zerkel@matsuk12.us



This week in class, students participated in the "Renew-a-Bead" scientific modeling activity to better understand the difference between renewable and nonrenewable resources. Through this hands-on experience, they explored how resource availability changes over time and how it impacts sustainability. We also began researching different types of energy sources, with students working in partners to become "experts" on one specific source. In the coming days, they will share their knowledge with the class through presentations.

Mrs. Strohmeier Cynthia.Strohmeier@matsuk12.us



Greetings, 6th grade families! Here after spring break, we have picked up our next chapter on functions and inequalities, which I hope for us to finish before the students head off to Juneau in a couple weeks. Just a week after they return from Juneau, we have our annual state assessments, so we'll also start reviewing for that even as we continue in our scheduled content.

As the students may have told you, we met our pre-spring break homework challenge and had our snack/movie day. Our last homework challenge is to continue our streak of 100% homework return until the last week of April, which will earn my math students a trip to the trampoline park! Keep up the good work!

Mrs. Heppner Natalie.Heppner@matsuk12.us

Middle School Art-Ventures with Ms. Christensen

7th grade self-portraits using the reverse acetate painting method.





7TH GRADE



Wrights Winners!

Wright 7th LA: Students read Shakespeare's "The Tempest" this week using a graphic novel with plain text. For each act, they practiced responding via text-dependent analysis (claim, data, warrant) combining last semester's debate skills with fiction analysis. They discussed the idea of control and identified how that was evident in the story at the Harkness table. After learning the plot and characters, they'll read the original play next week in Elizabethan English and perhaps watch the movie (if time).

Wright 7th math: The class is reviewing basic geometry concepts such as line/angle relationships and 2D transformations in Chapter 11. They practiced measuring and drawing triangles for a Pythagorean spiral project. Ten ALEKS topics are due each week.

Wright 7th math: The penultimate unit on the Great Depression wrapped up this week with a unit test Wednesday. Students created reviews in various ways, including illustrating a poem about the causes of the Great Depression, creating flashcards about New Deal programs, participating in matching activities and access to a Gimkit game. The final unit on World War 2 begins next week.

All hand outs and homework are on ConnectEd or Google Classroom. Have a great weekend!

Mrs. Wright
Melodie.Wright@matsuk12.us

"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the water to create many ripples." - Mother Teresa

It's hard to believe that we are now in the final quarter of the school year. It's time to give our best effort to finish strong. I encourage students and families to keep on top of assignments, tackle missing work, and prepare for assessments.

This week in English, students resumed daily skill-building, finished their opinion essays, and demonstrated knowledge of vocabulary with the root "tract," and were assigned 10 more words with the root "struct." We started a new novel, Out of the Dust, by Karen Hesse. It is set during the Great Depression in the region of the Dust Bowl. This will connect with the content learned in History with Mrs. Wright. It is also written in free verse poetry. Students learned a little bit about the author, and we began working with the first 51 pages of the book, focusing on vocabulary, comprehension questions with discussion and textual evidence, and an assessment. This week's writing entry was about the Golden Rule, treating others the way we want to be treated.

In Math, students continued working on Chapter 6: Equations and Inequalities. They finished Lessons 4 & 5, reviewed Lessons 1-5 in preparation for the Mid-Chapter Quiz (taken on Wednesday), finished Lessons 6 & 7 on solving inequalities by addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division, and started the last lesson of the chapter. Students will prepare for and take the chapter's summative assessments next Wednesday. As a reminder, students are required to complete at least 10 topics each week in ALEKS. This is important because they can get computer-based instruction in grade-level concepts that we have not been able to cover yet (like measurement, geometry, and statistics). Please encourage and support your student to engage in ALEKS at home for 15-20 minutes daily. Exposure and practice will support their performance on the AK STAR and MAP tests, data that contributes to placement in their 8th grade.

Students in History continued building geography skills, using atlases to identify answers to a variety of questions, and caught up with some current events with an episode of student-friendly news. Students reviewed the 1920s in preparation for the summative assessment taken on Thursday. Each student was assigned two significant topics, as a collaborative slide presentation and presented their topics on Wednesday. After the test, we began our unit on the Great Depression, gaining a general understanding of the decade, and answered questions using a given timeline.

Together, this will be a great year!

Ms. Twohy Tuesday.Twohy@matsuk12.us



What happens when you mix corn starch with water? First, seventh graders make a huge mess, but eventually they make Oobleck, a substance that acts as a solid and liquid. In class this week we made Oobleck and slime (double the mess!) Then we compared the properties of these "non-Newtonian Fluids to each other and to ketchup. What a fun mess they had squishing, poking and rolling these between their fingers, all in the pursuit of science! What did they learn? They learned a lot about the viscosity of fluids, how polymers are formed and that it takes several attempts to clean these ingredients off of every surface in the classroom!

Mrs. Dunham Susan.Dunham@matsuk12.us



Middle School Spanish



Sixth graders discussed what they thought was the actual meaning of the traditional Spanish idiom they illustrated over break. They are continually working on bringing their best work and effort to Spanish class.

Seventh Graders are beta testing a new grammar game this week. They are practicing more complex readings and working in pairs to further understanding, translate and answer questions.

Eighth graders are working with e-i verbs and the outlier verb jugar. They are creating their own people bingos and showing real kindness when helping each other to understand difficult concepts. They are doing a great job completing their Carnaval web quests.

Spanish 1 students are continuing to focus on ser and estar this week. We discussed the difference between where we are from and where we are now and how it affects verb choice in Spanish. We got very emotional and used play doh to help us practice these important adjectives.

Señorita Cady.Agoff@matsuk12.us



Welcome back from Spring Break! I hope the time off was a period of rest & rejuvenation for your family!

In 8th grade History finalized their We Didn't Start the Fire projects and presented on Thursday and Friday. This is such a great project, and I love to see the direction the students take when choosing their topics.

This year, my math group is on FIRE! They continue to challenge their own mathematical thinking and skills in so many ways. I am absolutely amazed at how excited they are and how hard they are willing to work! Every single one of these students deserves huge amounts of praise! Way to go!

The English 1 students continue working on their Hero's Journey narratives. In addition to creating their hero, the Unknown World and the Foe (the antagonist, they have almost finished with their graphic organizers where they will have planned out their storylines. Please remind your child to stay on top of these deadlines so they don't become overwhelmed. Also, next week we will begin reading Elie Wiesel's *Night*, the author's personal memoir of the Holocaust.

Have a fantastic weekend & enjoy the sunshine,

Mrs. Molina
Stacy.Molina@matsuk12.us

Manley's Minute: English 1

This week students have been hard at work developing their informational essays. They have been compiling research, organizing key ideas, and completing their outlines to prepare for the writing process. I'm excited to see these come together!

In addition to writing, we spent time reviewing important grammar tools that strengthen sentence structure and add variety to their writing. Ask your student the difference between coordinating conjunctions, subordinating conjunctions, and transitional adverbs. When students begin drafting their essays, I hope to see these strategies applied throughout their writing.

Mrs. Manley Patsy.Manley@matsuk12.us



Its March Madness time! We are taking a deep dive into probability and statistics through the eye of student interests! Each student has been able to choose a topic, and we will work through statistical analysis of their chosen topics as well as how statistics is the king of the sports world, giving a real-world application to both probability and statistics.



This week in 8th Grade Science we continued our look into Natural Selection, before our deep dive into the 8th Grade Science Fair next week. The 8th Grade Science will take place the Tuesday and Wednesday of next week with each group presenting on their normal Science Days.

Mr. Farring Timothy.Farring@matsuk12.us

