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Spangdahlem MS

Podcast Audio Transcripts

December 2008

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This is Mr. Malloy and on behalf of Spangdahlem Middle school season's greetings. I know it is hard to believe but we are into our fifth week of the second quarter. We are trying something new this quarter. We are emailing progress reports to parents via GradeSpeed. Please go over this progress report with your student and encourage them to do their very best. It is much easier to resolve grading issues now than it will be after the holidays. If there are problems or concerns, or if are not emailed a progress report by Friday, 5 December please contact me and we will get the information to you. It is very important that we have the email account you want the email to go that is listed as your primary email address.

To promote improving writing across the curriculum using 6+1 writing traits our Media Specialist and CSP Chairperson has been hosting a writing contest featuring one of the six traits each week. This week's trait is voice. Voice is what gives the writer's paper personality, flavor, and or style. The students are encouraged each day through the daily announcements to participate and it is reinforced in their language arts classes. We are asking you to please reinforce this at home as well.

Parents, if you know your student is going to be absent for more than a day or two please make notify our registrar as soon as you know so that arrangements can be made to get assignments ahead of time or make up assignments. Being excused from school does not excuse the students from the responsibility of doing their assignments and tests. This also reduces stress for the student and the teachers when the student returns as to what the expectations are for tests and projects.

Just a friendly reminder that on 10 December at 7:00 PM our Bulldog Band will be hosting the Winter Concert. Please join us for a night of entertainment by arguably the best middle school band in DoDDS. On 16 December at 7:00 PM don't miss our Holiday Play, "The Christmas Doll."

Thank you for listening, as I am looking forward to yet another podcast.

9 December 2008

This is Mr. Malloy the principal of Spangdahlem Middle School extending to you a friendly Bulldog welcome. Here at Spangdahlem we support the district vision which is standards based, data driven, and student focused. This continues to be our banner leading for the charge of promoting highest student achievement. Here we believe that all students can learn and our staff continues to promote the success of every student.

Even bright and gifted students do better with good parental support from home. We encourage every parent to take an active role in your student's education. Here are just a few things you can do to help your student succeed in school. Make sure that your student has a time and a place to do their homework and study. Praise them when they take the initiative to do their homework on their own and remind them when they don't. Maintain good communication with your child's teachers. Go over their agenda book with them and make suggestions for how they can best use it as a tool for keeping track of assignments. Take a few minutes each day and talk to them about how their day went and what they learned. Remember the words of Ronald Reagan, "Trust and verify." If you have questions or concerns check on GradeSpeed or send an email to your student's teachers.

At Spangdahlem Middle School, one of our School improvement goals is improving writing across the curriculum. One of the strategies we are using to accomplish this is the 6 + 1 Traits of Writing. This week the students are focusing on Word Choice. Using precise and colorful words add energy and clarity to our work. Encourage your student to develop a critical eye toward their usage of verbs because they push the sentence forward and give it life. They can also do their best to use words to create vivid word pictures that entice the reader.

Our PTSA is hosting a breakfast as a fundraiser on Wednesday, 17 December at 0800. We are asking for food donations for the breakfast, but in support of our emerging "Wellness Policy" we are asking for healthy foods. Students will be given the opportunity that morning to purchase a healthy variety of foods ranging from granola bars to breakfast burritos. Please send your child with a little extra money that day and of course parents are always welcome to attend.

Thanks again for tuning in to this week's podcast. Until next time be safe and have a wonderful bulldog day.

16 December 2008

Season's Greetings from the staff and students of Spangdahlem Middle School! This is the principal Mr. Joseph Malloy welcoming you to the final podcast for calendar year 2008. This week for 6+1 Writing Traits we are working on sentence fluency. Encourage your students to read their writing aloud and listen to the rhythm of the language.

Their sentences should be clear and powerful. Every word should work hard to create just the right meaning. We create this through logic, creative phrasing, parallel constructions, alliteration, absence of redundancy and variety in sentence length and structure. The best way for your student to be fluent is to focus on good sentence structure. Papers with good sentence structure have these characteristics:

- Some sentences are long and stretchy, while some are short and snappy.
- It is easy to read the paper out loud.
- Sentences begin differently and they show how ideas connect.
- All excess baggage has been left out or cut from the sentence.

Our students have a final opportunity to compete in the December 6+1 weekly writing contest by writing at least 3 sentences about their plans for the winter holidays that demonstrate good ideas, organization, voice, word choice and sentence structure. The winner will be announced on Friday. Please check and see if your child is participating in the weekly competitions.

Our school nurse has asked me to remind everyone about the importance of personal hygiene. If your child has not already entered into puberty they soon will. Please discuss with them the importance of maintaining proper hygiene. Bathing with soap not only help with body odor but also prevents skin and hair from becoming oily and greasy. In addition, encourage your student to use deodorant or antiperspirant. Please assist your child in establishing and maintaining good hygiene.

Students will be released for winter break Monday, 22 December and will return on Monday, 5 January. Our Student Affairs Office will be open 7:00 to 3:45, Monday through Friday except for the 25th, 26th of December and January 1st. On behalf of the staff at Spangdahlem Middle School we wish you a safe and happy holiday season, and look forward to working with you next year.