**September 26, 2014**

**I asked an 8th grader what book she was reading and her response was, “I’m reading *The Giver* because Mrs. Clark told me it is so good that I am crazy for not having read it.” After hearing this, I had to read it myself and it is an amazing book. I always enjoy talking to kids about books and see them excited about reading. Reading is fun and great books are unforgettable. Here are just a few of the books that have made the biggest impact on my life:**

* ***The Digging-est Dog* by Al Perkins: Mom would read this to me every day and it was the first book I ever loved. I’ll never forget the opening line, “The pet shop window was my jail, the sign behind me said, ‘For Sale.’” I’ve been a constant reader ever since.**
* ***The Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien: When I read this in junior high, it was the first time I ever considered that being a Language Arts teacher could be an awesome profession.**
* ***It* by Stephen King: In high school, there was an incident that led to me spending 3 days in ISS. I spent most of this time reading the Master of Horror’s most terrifying work. Since then, I’ve read everything King has ever written multiple times.**
* ***The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain: I read this as a kid, but as a college student, it helped me appreciate reading for deeper meaning. While *Huck Finn* comes across as a kid’s novel, it makes an important statement on race and anti-violence.**
* ***Harry Potter*: Jen and I connected because of these books. If not for J.K. Rowling, it’s possible that I would still be a single guy living in an apartment in Pekin.**
* ***What Great Principals Do Differently—18 Things That Matter Most*: Todd Whitaker is my hero and this book helped changed the way I view education.**

**Kudos & FYI**

**Lydia Thousand gets excited about books and reading which is why we are fortunate to have her as our librarian. Thanks to each of you for taking extra time to promote literature. I noticed several signs outside your doors with a picture of the book you are reading. The third annual “All day reading day” will be held on Tuesday, November 25. Classes will join together for a reading competition with the winning homerooms eating lunch first for a week and they will receive sodas. Mrs. Clark has challenged her 8th grade students to beat her in Accelerated Reader points.**

**Students in Mrs. Ritchie’s 8th grade class are writing creative pieces on overcoming a personified fear. In her 7th grade class, students are completing a “Roller Coaster” mini-project in which they write a narrative about the ride experience. The best ones will be presented to the BOE in October.**

**Mr. Sea, Mr. Liske, and Ms. Foster go out of their way to make math fun for students. Seventh grade students practiced coordinates and axis by making and playing their own Battleship games. Sixth grade students practice fractions and percentages using candy.**

**Congratulations to the 8th grade Lady Warrior’s basketball team who are playing in the championship game at the Pleasant Valley Tournament vs. tomorrow at 2:00 against Hollis.**

**The P.A.C.E. Pizza Ranch fundraiser is Wednesday, October 7th and the Student Council fundraiser kicked off yesterday. We hope to use these proceeds to purchase laptop computers.**

**Monday’s *Warrior Way* lesson is “Too Many Choices, I can’t Decide.” Thanks for reviewing this.**

**I’m reading the young adult book, *The Infinite Sea,* by Rick Yancey. This weekend I’m hoping the Bears don’t embarrass themselves vs. the Packers. Thanks for all you do & happy weekend! --Brad**

***Student Focused—Results DRIVEN!***

***The PAST is THERE.***

***The FUTURE is HERE!***

**Upcoming Events**

**Tuesday, September 30: GBB home vs. Peoria Quest @ 5:00**

**Wednesday, October 1: Teacher collaboration meeting 2:45-3:45 (Courtney Thatcher on chapter 4 of WGTDD, Emily Turner on EQUIP, Math Collaboration, ELA Collaboration, *Warrior Way.***

**Tuesday, October 7: GBB home vs. Edison @ 5:00**

**Thursday, October 9: PACE Fundraiser night at Pizza Ranch in Morton**

**Monday, October 13: Columbus Day—no school**

**Wednesday, October 15: GBB home vs. Rossville @ 5:00**

**Thursday, October 16: GBB Home vs. Rankin @ 5:00**

**Thursday, October 16: PACE Meeting @ LaSalle 6:00**

**Friday, October 17: 1st grading period ends—1:35 dismissal**

**Monday, October 20: Boys Basketball Tryouts 2:45-4:15**

**Thursday, October 23: No School--Parent Teacher Conferences 2:00-8:00**

**Friday, October 24: No School—Parent Teacher Conferences 8:00-11:00. Staff Meeting 11:00-1:00**

**Tuesday, October 28: GBB home vs. Bartonville Grade @ 5:00**

**Friday, October 31: Happy Halloween!**

**Monday, November 3: GBB Home vs. Bartonville Monroe @ 5:00**

**Tuesday, November 4: Teacher’s Institute—no school**

**Wednesday, November 5: Teacher Collaboration Meeting 2:45-3:45**

**Tuesday, November 11: Veteran’s Day—no school**

**Tuesday, November 18: GBB home vs. Dunlap @ 5:00**

**Wednesday, November 19: Mid Term Ends**

**Thursday, November 20: PACE Meeting @ Parkview 6:00**

**Tuesday, November 25: All Day Reading Day/PACE Popcorn Day—mid-terms go home**

**Wednesday, November 26: Thanksgiving Break!**

**Monday March 9: PARCC Performance Based Assessment this week**

**Monday, March 16: PARCC Performance Based Assessment continues**

**Monday, April 27: PARCC End of Year Assessment this week**

**Monday, May 4: PARCC End of Year Assessment this week**