Important Dates (subject to change at teacher discretion):

- Hila Science Workshop Thursday, Oct. 1st
- History Test Monday, Oct. 5th
- History Audio Script History Seigneur Map Friday, Oct. 9th
- 2-D Measurement Test Friday, October 9th
- Multiple Choice Novel Reading Quiz Tuesday, Oct. 13th
- Letter to the Editor Writing Assignment Week of October 19th
- Science Tasks Week of October 26th
- Soccer Tournament Friday, October 30th
- Data Management Test Early November

Mr. Afelskie’s Gr. 8 Class Newsletter

STUDY GROUP

- Help is available for any Grade 8 student after school in my classroom at the end of the day (2:40-3:05 pm) in any subject. I will try to make myself available on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. Some students have already taken advantage of this time to: clarify a particular concept or get help with homework/assignments or to prepare for an upcoming test.

NEW CONCEPTS FOR GRADE 7/8

- Not only will you see changes in the way you’re expected to behave; you’ll also see changes in the way you’re expected to think!

One new concept you’ll have to understand is the concept of themes. A theme is a common characteristic that ties things together. You could think of a theme as a string that runs through certain areas and connects them. It’s simple, really. For example, “our environment” can be a topic used in science class (exploring climate change), in history class (industrialization), in geography class (people and land). Your teachers may collaborate on a theme and expect you to understand how subjects are related to each other.

At Home: You can practice recognizing themes by reading a newspaper to look for “strings” that connect the community event section, the political section, the sports section, and even the comics.

MARKS

- In the near future, your son or daughter will be bringing home a test review folder of all of their recent test/assignment results. Please review the comments/suggestions and encourage your child to work on some of the teacher input given.

HOMEWORK TOOL: REMIND 101

- This is another reminder that if you want to keep updated on our class’ activities, via text/email messages, (homework, assignments, events, etc.) please sign up for Remind 101. It works like this. You send a text to a remote computer and it registers you to Mr. Afelskie’s class account and you will receive regular updates. In an age of instant communication, this is a tool that you will really find helpful. See the sign-up instructions attached in the Parent Information Link of our classroom website. https://sites.google.com/a/rccdsb.ca/bosco2016/
Areas of Curriculum Focus

ENGLISH
- Reading Focus (main idea & synthesizing):
  We have begun reading the novel **Elijah of Buxton** or **Bud Not Buddy**, by Christopher Paul Curtis, a story about a young boy's coming of age amidst a time of racial tension and discrimination. We will read approximately fifty to sixty pages per week.

- Writing Focus (organization & word choice):
  a) Report Writing – Procedural (Science)
  b) Letter to the Editor – Persuasive (English)

MATH
*Data Management Strand – Unit 5 of Textbook:* We are just completing our Trapezoids/Circles Unit (Measurement Strand) and we will next be moving into data management. Students will be examining data collection sets/methods, distinguishing between primary and secondary sources, and summarizing their results. Students will be responsible for coming up with a suitable question to examine, for example, how does studying impact test results? Each student will then collect data on that subject and prepare a report of their findings.

- Free Online Math Tutoring will also be available for Gr. 7/8 students in late September (Sunday through Thursday from 5:30-9:30pm) from Homework Help. More information to come but check out there website: www.homeworkhelp.ilc.org

SCIENCE
G7 Interactions In the Environment Strand: students will analyze the impact/consequences humans have on the environment, while reflecting upon their personal responsibility to protect the environment. Students will learn that ecosystems consist of communities of plants and animals that are dependent on each other as well as on the living non-living parts of the environment.

G8 Life Systems Strand: In this unit, students will continue to develop their knowledge of organisms by focusing on the structure and function of cells in plants and animals. Our knowledge of cells has increased enormously since the middle of the twentieth century, and students will examine the implications of this knowledge for individuals, society, and the environment. Our final project will have students construct a 3-d animal or plant cell.

RELIGION & FAMILY LIFE
- Religion: Particular attention will be given to virtues and moral decision making with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- Family Life Focus: We will be examining family structures and discussing the ways a family can remain strong and hopeful in the face of family breakdown.

PHYSICAL & HEALTH EDUCATION
- Our gym classes will be focused on soccer. In health, our focus will be on recognizing unsafe behaviours and how to deal with emergency situations that may occur while participating in physical activity.

Something to ponder ...

This is a story about 4 people named **Everybody**, **Somebody**, **Nobody** and **Anybody**. There was an important job to be done, and **Everybody** was asked to do it. **Everybody** was sure that **Somebody** would do it. **Anybody** could have done it, but **Nobody** did it. **Somebody** got angry about that because it was **Everybody’s** job. **Everybody** thought **Anybody** could do it; but **Nobody** realized that **Everybody** wouldn’t do it. It ended up that **Everybody** blamed **Somebody**, when **Nobody** did what **Anybody** could have done!