March 22, 2013

Dear Parents,

This week students learned about famous abolitionists and reformers as well as Causes of the Civil War. Students are required to finish their “Causes of the Civil War Wheel” activity this weekend for homework. This will be due at the beginning of class on Monday. You will be notified if your child did not complete the assignment. This assignment will also serve as a beneficial review for their unit test next week.

The grades have been updated and finalized on skyward for term 3. Please email me with any questions about your child’s grade. I have attached two documents to this email. The first is an open invitation to all 8th graders to attend STAAR review sessions to prepare for the History STAAR exam on April 25th. Students will have the option of attending morning, lunch, or afternoon sessions. We are trying to accommodate the students’ schedules as best as we can.

The second attached document is information for the PREAP/GT Spring Novel Study. Students are required to purchase or check out the book and bring it to class by April 3rd. This gives them plenty of time to supply the book. If there are any questions regarding the assignment please let me know. Students will read the book outside of class on April 3rd and answer questions in a packet and complete a culminating activity.

**Important Dates:**March 28th-Causes of the Civil War Test  
April 3rd- Spring Novel Due  
April 25th- History STAAR Test

**Talking Points:**

1. How did the Election of 1860 effect the South?
   1. This angered many southerners because they believed Lincoln would abolish slavery. South Carolina seceded from the Union after Lincoln’s election
2. What are the 5 provisions in the Compromise of 1850?
   1. California admitted as free state
   2. Utah and New Mexico would vote in regards to slavery.
   3. Texas would give part of its western border to New Mexico.
   4. Slave trade abolished in Washington D.C.
   5. **Fugitive Slave law** was passed

**Word Generation:**bulk, describe, eligible, explanation, sufficient

Thank you for your continued support, and have a wonderful weekend.

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*"Knowledge indeed is a desirable, a lovely possession." Thomas Jefferson*

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