Dear Smith Families,

I love Smith! The office staff, cafeteria, custodians, teachers, parents, and scholars have an awesome partnership with one purpose...helping scholars become great every single day. I lead with this, because starting this week, we will be adding some new team members to our staff. In January, we will have a new face running our "No Excuses" program as well as a new face in the 6th grade science position. We want to wish Miss Yeich a congratulations on her recent engagement, and good luck while she's moving to be closer to her fiance.

On top of the new faces, you'll see that the construction is really beginning to come together. We have been very lucky with the lack of disruptions with our instruction, and the progress has been fun to watch. As you are probably aware, we have a new morning drop off loop with the new parking area as well. We are very excited for our extreme-Smith makeover!

While November was filled with an incredible musical performance (thank you Mrs. Gagliardi and Mrs. ZB), Grandparent's day (thank you Mr. McCardell and the CAP program), National Education Week (thank you Mrs. Stump), Coats for Kids (thank you Mr. Moyer and PRIDE Ambassadors), the dodgeball tournament (thank you Miss DeCicco), Fall Fest (thank you Miss DeCicco), the 8th grade formal (thank you NHS and Miss Sellers), and “No Shave November/FUN-Raiser” contest (thank you Mr. McCardell and Miss DeCicco), December will also be bringing some great things with it. If you didn’t know already, Team Gladfelter won the contest and Team Beard got pied in the face. That event raised hundreds of books for the Solanco Literacy Foundation and money for local charities.

The short month of December already started off great with our first Holiday Mall sponsored by the PTO. It will also be highlighted by the book fair and holiday concert. We are continuing to work hard through the holiday break and into the end of the second semester. If you feel your child needs extra help in math or with homework, we have some opportunities for extra help as well, so please ask. Thank you for supporting your scholars at Smith.

-Dave Beard, Assistant Principal

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November’s Scholar of the Month
Kara Peace
Chosen by the 7th Grade Team

Principal’s Breakfast Club for October
Recognized in November

Front left to right: Bradley Weder, Kira Albright, Olivia Singleton, Raif Groves, Jackie Roblero, Madeline Strehle
Back left to right: Gavin Robertson, Joey Null, Julie-Anna Johnson, Jeremy Gill, Braden Jarabek

Smith Middle School Enrollment Report
6th Grade = 142  7th Grade = 155  8th Grade = 128  Total = 425
PTO Update:

Thank you to everyone who was involved with our first annual Holiday Mall! It was a great event and we look forward to next year. Our next meeting is Wednesday, December 20 at 7:00pm in the cafeteria. Come out and help us plan our next few events!

6th Grade Team News

Language Arts - Students will wrap up their work with the Nonfiction Text “Mistakes that Worked”. After that students will start a new unit in fictional text using the novel “The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle”, this is one of their favorites for the year!

LEAD - Sixth graders will be working on vocabulary strategies. We’ll also begin work with TDA (Text Dependent Analysis) questions.

Math - In math, students will be beginning to explore algebraic expressions and using formulas to solve problems.

Science - Students will be concluding Unit 3 on how matter changes and will transition into learning about forces and motion. Then we will move into Unit 4 where we will learn about how work and power are made easier through the use of simple machines. Students will also have the opportunity to create a Rube Goldberg machine.

Social Studies – Tomb it may concern, Smith archaeologists are continuing their travels pharaoh into the Valley of the Kings, Giza-ing on the Great Pyramids while honing their academic Cheops. We’ll soon move on to ancient India, but we don’t want our scholars to feel Egypt-ed on the rich culture of this civilization.

Counselor’s Corner

Over the past several weeks, the Solanco School District community were encouraged to donate some items for two important local causes:

Coats for Kids: This ensures that kids and families will have warm hats, sweaters, scarves, and jackets for the cold weather ahead.

Distribution will take place at Clean Enterprises from November 24-December 16 (315 West State Street in Quarryville; across from Son’s Ice Cream; 786-2800). Distribution will also occur at Little Britain Presbyterian Church on November 25, 27 & December 2 between 9 AM-3 PM (255 Little Britain Church Road in Peach Bottom; 548-3322).

Giving Thanks Food Drive: A district-wide initiative where students brought in boxed and canned food items to be given to local families who may need support over the Thanksgiving season.

Thanks to all who donated to either/both of these wonderful opportunities to help someone/families in need! Also, remember our Swappe Shoppe (if you or someone you know needs clothing, let me know; we have plenty).

Grieving and the Holidays (taken from Pathways Center for Grief & Loss, November-December 2017 newsletter): For those who have experienced the death of a loved one, the holidays can be a difficult time of year. You may want to try the suggestions offered below.

- Plan ahead and prioritize. Plan one small goal for each day and include those you care about in the planning.
- Live in the moment. Take time to rest, refresh and renew.
- Create rituals. Look for ways to remember your loved one.
- Moving forward. Decide what direction you want to move in as you look ahead to the coming year.

To contact Mr. Moyer: shawn_moyer@solancosd.org

Left to right: Mr. Himmelberger, Mr. Pontius, Mrs. Long, Miss Yeich, Miss. Pruskowski, Mr. McDowell, and Mrs. Lee
7th Grade Team News

Math/Math Extensions: During December, 7th grade students will be learning how to solve one and two step algebra equations. Students will also learn how to represent real-world problems using algebra.

LEAD: We are working on Research using The Big 6 method. Scholars are reading *Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World* in Language Arts and researching related topics in LEAD. After, we are moving on to Before, During, and After reading strategies.

Social Studies: Students will discover how North America became impacted when explorers from the many countries of Europe tried to find shorter routes to the spices, jewels, and silks of the Far East. For those inhabitants already in North America, home would never be the same.

LA: Students will be completing their second non-fiction unit while exploring different technological aspects of creating a digital poster using *Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World*.

Science: During December, 7th grade students will begin their units on Earth and Space which will cover topics such as seasons, earthquakes, and plate tectonics.

8th Grade Team News

Language Arts: Scholars will be finishing up their *The Diary of a Young Girl: Anne Frank* unit and beginning a unit on historical fiction, which includes *A Christmas Carol* and a short story.

LEAD III: This month students will learning about various text taking and before reading strategies.

Algebra: Algebra I students will finish their graphing chapter. Then, the students will begin their interpreting of graphs chapter and finish with probability in Algebra. Intro to Algebra students will continue with their applications of equations chapter. Those students will finish with geometric ideas and probability in Algebra.

Integrated Geography: Students will begin analyzing the state of Pennsylvania through the scope of geography and will transition through the disciplines of Integrated Geography.

Science: During December in Science we will be finishing the unit on Forces and Motion and beginning to learn about different types of energy, and how energy is converted and transferred to other types.

Social Studies: In December the students will be learning the history of Texas and the Mexican War. They will also be learning about the geographic features of the American West as we start our study of the history of Western Expansion.
MUSIC – Students in 8th grade music will be learning about the History of Rock and Roll. Students in 7th grade music will be studying the instruments of the orchestra. 6th grade students will continue to learn the music of American composers including Blind Tom, John Philip Sousa and Scott Joplin.

HEALTH – Seventh grade students will be wrapping up their Fitness unit. This will include studying the cardiovascular system and then muscles, ligaments and tendons.

FITNESS – All students will be participating in soccer. Once soccer is complete we will begin our fall rounds of Presidential fitness testing. Please keep in mind as the weather gets colder we will stay outside for as long as we can. Students should come prepared with a sweatshirt/jacket for cold weather in both Fitness class and recess.

COMPUTER TECH – The 8th graders will be working on resumes to use for the interviews in LEAD. The 7th graders will begin to learn uses for enumerations and the 6th graders will be working on basic skills in Word.

ART – 6th grade students are beginning a short unit on 3D pinch pots, learning about the history and uses of pinch pots and making their own of a creative “creature” design. 7th grade will be beginning a unit on the history and traditional uses of dream catchers, and how the uses and properties of dream catchers have changed with the passage of time. 8th grade will be beginning a unit in which they will create coil pots and learning the skills necessary for manipulating clay.

FACS – On hiatus until the 4th marking period when Mrs. Almoney returns from Swift!

STEM – 6th grade STEM students will be designing and building their newspaper chairs based on structural design concepts. 7th grade students will explore inexhaustible energy sources such as solar and hydro power. 8th grade students will wrap up their research projects, and will then start to look at how medicines affect the body.

TECH ED – As the culmination of their Transportation Unit, Sixth Grade will be launching their model rockets the last week of the marking period. Seventh Grade will be assembling their Digital Media Center projects and bringing them home. Eighth Grade will continue working on their Independent Study projects.

MEDIA CENTER – 6th grade will continue research on an invention of their choice, while learning and using the Big6 research method. All grades will continue with their book exchanges providing students with leisure reading materials. 6th grade will focus, more specifically, on non-fiction books and the organization of them.

American Education Week
For American Education Week, we thanked our parents for supporting our Scholars success at Smith Middle School. On Tuesday we had Donuts for Dads with over 150 in attendance, and Thursday we had close to 200 enjoying Muffins for Moms!

Upcoming Dates:
December 11-15 Book Fair
December 12 Holiday Concert (7:30)
December 12-Interims out
December 14 Smith Singers Caroling
December 20-PTO meeting (7:00)
December 25 thru January 1-Christmas Break