Spring is almost here! The students are definitely ready for nice weather! Our students are learning many new and interesting facts across the curriculum and are really putting them to good use.

In Social Studies, Mr. Holobawski has the students learning about the Caribbean Islands and making persuasive travel brochures. They will continue discovering Central America over the next few weeks. Mrs. Natelborg has her students finishing up Ch. 5 on Energy. They will begin Chs. 8 and 9 which cover Life Science. They will learn about different organisms and their roles and relationships in their ecosystem.

In Language Arts, Mrs. Wireman has been working with the students discussing theme of a story and how it affects the characters and plot. They are also using figurative language to give a story “voice”.

As far as Math goes, the students will be starting new and exciting math concepts involving measurement, probability, and graphs.

Thanks for being such great support for all of us this year. Keep reminding your child to bring their agenda books to class to write all their assignments down. You can call daily/weekly to find out the homework for each class.

Have a safe and wonderful spring break!
Team 6C is looking forward to a productive fourth quarter. In Language Arts, the honors class will be finishing the novel *The Westing Game*, while the rest of the team will begin reading *Number the Stars*. All of the classes will be working on poetry toward the end of the year. In science, the team will be working on a large biomes and ecosystem project; there will be more details to come regarding this.

The general math classes will be working on the following: mean, median, and mode, probability, compound events and predictions, lines, angles, and triangles. Honors math students will be delving into collecting, displaying and analyzing data, not to mention, lines and angles, and finishing with probability applications.

Now, we cannot forget social studies! Mr. Thomas will be moving through the Dark Ages into Enlightenment, then exploring with the European sailors, and landing in the North and South Americas. Please make sure your child has the materials need to complete the above tasks. Many are running short on the basics, such as, pencils and erasers. These items are for sale in the Media Center for a minimal cost. FYI… Poster boards are only $.25 there.

In science, students will be moving on to the study of nature.

**National Junior Honor Society:**

PLEASE NOTE THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2013. Mark your calendars for the National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony on Wednesday, May 1, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. here at Taft Middle School. All current members and inductees will practice after school on Tuesday, April 30th. Our current seventh- and eighth-grade members will accompany the inductees at the ceremony as they become officially welcomed into this prestigious organization. Remember to wear appropriate clothing for the induction ceremony. This may include collared shirts/polos and long pants for boys. Girls may wear dresses or skirts of an appropriate length or long pants and blouses.

Please do not wear shorts or jeans. Congratulations to those students who have been invited to join, and thank you to our current members who have worked on service projects all year in order to help others. Best of luck in high school to our outgoing eighth-grade members!

**Media Center News:**

There are several exciting events taking place in the Media Center. We are having an Accelerated Reader contest this grading period. All students that receive 200% or more of their AR goal by the end of this nine weeks will be invited to a doughnut and juice party. Please encourage your children to read an extra book or two so they will be eligible to attend our morning breakfast party!!

The Spring Book Fair will take place the week of March 22nd-27th. The Book Fair will be open from 7:00am-3:00pm on those dates. We are in need of parent volunteers, so please call Mrs. VandenBerg in the Media Center at 663-1507, ext. 12114 if you can spare a few hours that week.

Ebooks are coming to the Taft Library!!! More information will be available soon!
The English students on the Trailblazers team will be reading and analyzing informational text for the next few weeks. We will then begin reading and discussing a novel. The students in honors class will read the American classic *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* which provides an excellent snapshot of the dialect and lifestyle of the mid-1800s along the Mississippi River. Students in regular English will read *Tangerine*, and we will focus on the themes and characters of this more contemporary novel. As we begin the new quarter, Core Rotation will focus on reading complex text in the *Great Books Roundtable* books. Each student will be assigned his or her own personal copy to allow for annotating in preparation for our discussions.

In social studies, students have finished learning about China and Japan. The final area to study will be Africa this year. Topics to be discussed in detail are the wonders of Timbuktu, the injustice of colonization, the heroics of Nelson Mandela, and the horrors of the Rwanda Genocide. Students will finish the year studying the transfer of energy, sound and the interaction of sound waves, and the electromagnetic spectrum and the interaction of light waves. In core rotation students will learn about fossil fuels and alternative sources of energy.

In math, Mr. G is starting the new nine weeks with constructing and reading graphs and charts, which will then be followed by giving the students their introduction to geometry. During math core rotation, students will be collecting data and learning how to correctly make a pie chart to represent their findings.

The fourth quarter of the 2012-2013 school year has come quickly! Spring is in the air and students can see the summer coming. However, in the final weeks of school, there is still much work to be done. In English classes, students will be reviewing prefixes and suffixes as well as author’s purpose and argument. Students will be completing an ISTEP review prior to the second ISTEP+ test at the end of April. All English students will finish the year reading a novel. Regular English students will be reading *Tangerine* by Edward Bloor. Honors English students will be reading the American classic, *Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain.

Science students have just completed Chapter 3, Forces and Motion, and will begin Chapter 4 Energy and Energy Transfer; The Nature of Energy, Energy Transformation and Conservation and The Transfer of Heat. For Core Rotation in science, students will begin with Chapter 5, Energy Resources; Fossil Fuels, Renewable Sources of Energy and Energy Use and Conservation.

In honors math, students will be completing sections 6-7, 6-8 and chapters 11-13 which covers data analysis, polynomials, and transformations. In regular math, students will be completing chapters 7, 8 and 11 which covers data analysis, geometric figures, transformations, and probability.

In social studies students will finish up units on Africa and Australia followed by a review of the year in preparation for the upcoming ISTEP+ assessment.

Students at all levels, sixth, seventh, and eighth, were recently honored for their academic achievements with an honor roll breakfast. Students who earned straight A’s or A’s and B’s were invited to attend. The sixth grade honor roll breakfast was held in the cafeteria on Wednesday, March 13. The seventh graders were honored on Thursday, March 14, and the eighth graders were honored on Friday, March 15. Students enjoyed juice and doughnuts while socializing with their peers. A great time was had by all, and what a nice way to celebrate academic success. Keep up the good work!

Reach high, for stars lie hidden in your soul. Dream deep, for every dream precedes the goal.
Ralph Vaull Starr
Science Olympiad Goes to State

The Taft Bulldog Science Olympiad ended their season on a great note. On Saturday, March 16th, students competed in the State Science Olympiad Competition at Indiana University, Bloomington. Our Bulldogs came in 15th place among the 30 schools that participated in this event. The team had three events that finished in the top five. The first was Taylen Hovanec and Tara Lugo for Boomilever, which placed fourth in the state. The second was Taylen Hovanec and Moiz Rasheed for Heredity, which placed second in the state. The third was Michael Lennon and Daniyaal Rasheed for Meteorology, which placed third in the state. The team put a lot of hard work and hours of preparation in order to get to participate in this event. They should all be very proud of their accomplishment! Nice Job Bulldogs!
Krapf Qualifies for State Geography Bee Finals:

Congratulations to Ryan Krapf for qualifying for the state National Geographic Bee finals in Indianapolis on Friday, April 5. Only the top 100 students in the state qualified for this competition so this is an incredible accomplishment! Good luck Ryan at State!

Guidance Department News:

ISTEP Information:
- Students have completed the March 4-13th Applied Skills portion of the ISTEP+
- April 29-May 10th ISTEP + Multiple Choice
- May 20th-May 27th Algebra I End of Course Assessment (ECA)

Taft Annual 8th grade Career Fair
April 15th through April 19th
Be sure to remind your child to sign up for the career presentation of their choice during this week. They can hear from a medical doctor, an architect, a chef and more about what skills and training it took to get them their dream job!

Notes from the Nurse:

This is an important reminder to parents of student athletes including dance and cheerleading; a new physical will be needed dated 4/1/13 or later for summer and fall sports next school year. This year's physical will be good for 2013 spring sports only and some camps. This is our athletic policy and the policy at CPHS based on the ISHAA recommendations that a physical is on file dated 4/1 or later of that school year on an annual basis. Note that an "ISHAA physical form" is not required for middle school students only for high school students. A regular physical card is fine for middle school students. This form can be down loaded from the CPCSC website or picked up at the office. Your student will not be able to try out or participate unless an actual copy of a physical is received by your child’s coach or school nurse. They are then recorded and filed by the school nurse and become part of their permanent health record. Getting physicals done during the summertime will help avoid delays of activities by waiting for a Dr. appointment, etc. Also, please update the school nurse on any new vaccines received by your child by sending a print out or documentation of those new vaccines to the nurse’s office. There are optional vaccines as well as recommended vaccines please check with your Dr. It is expected that Hepatitis A vaccine series is to be required in Kindergarten, and a 2nd booster of a Meningitis vaccine in high school (grade 12) will be required for school entry in Indiana for the 2014/15 school year. Please contact your student’s school nurse with any questions regarding immunizations that are required or recommended.
The Taft 7th Grade Girls Basketball team won a spectacular game to win the conference championship this year on March 14th at Ben Franklin Middle School. Great defense was played by the entire team including Mya Scheidt, Alex Equihua, Peyton Yelich, Moriah McRae, Abby Gelon, Kira Schuelka, and Ana Maksimovich.

The A team finished the season with 16 wins and 4 losses.

Leading scorers- Mya Scheidt 12 points/game, Alex Equihua 8 points/game
Leading Rebounder- Peyton Yelich 8 per game, Alex Equihua and Mya Scheidt with 4 per game.

The B team finished the season with 5 wins and 4 losses

Leading Scorers- Alexis Woodburn with 5 points/game and Lexie Richwalski with 4 points/game.
Leading Rebounder- Alexis Woodburn with 5 per game, Hannah Wylie and Marissa Myers with 3 per game.

What a great way to end the third grading period!! By now, almost everyone has heard how successful our Hoops for Heart- American Heart Association Fundraiser was. Taft raised $10,346 for the AHA through on-line fund-raising, cash donations, and a fun dance and shooting contest. Thank you to all who participated.

The top eight fundraisers also received Indiana Pacer Basketball tickets. The leaders were, in order, Aidan Phipps, Andrew Keneson, Matt Stanish, Isabel Kalil, Peyton Yelich, Reagan Beckam, Jake Monachino, and Emily Russell. Way to go Team Taft!!

We also had another competitive waltz competition. Every semester the kids learn dances and end the unit by competing in a waltz off. The top three in each class get an automatic A for the unit without having to take the written test. This year’s winners were as follows: Jenna Mickey & Matt Frechette, Katie Mojica & Brett Schoettle, Sydni Weisbrodt & Ty Handley, Abbey Kelliher & Brandt Fraser, Nia Shelton & Michael McDermott, Amina Hmad & Jack Pendleton, and Sydney Bustos & Joey Perez.

As the last grading period quickly approaches, be prepared for the Presidential Fitness Testing soon after spring break. This would be a great time for parents and children to work out together!! Keep those logs coming in on time and be prepared for the end of year projects that will be assigned. Remember: total wellness depends on balancing your physical, mental/emotional, and social health.