

# LION PRIDE



## DRYDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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### *A Long Walk to Water*

ELA 7 students finished our module novel, A Long Walk to Water, by Linda Sue Park learning more about the real-life challenges of survival in many areas of Africa, including for refugees such as the "Lost Boys" of Sudan. We were excited to welcome our parent guest speaker, Mrs. Ortolano, as she shared her experiences about living in the African countries of Senegal and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Mrs. Ortolano offered many interesting facts about the diversity of resources, languages, and culture in those African countries. She taught

us about her dissertation research on childhood development and nutrition, and how her findings helped improve learning and educational opportunities for children in Senegal. Stories, photographs, books, clothing, and kitchen utensils collected from her travels in Senegal were shared with students.

Mrs. Ortolano taught us how one person with a vision for change can do amazing things - just like the main character in our novel, Salva!



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## Technology Class

Students in Mr. Coolbaugh's 6th grade Robotics class are taking home their props for their robotics' tracks. They did a fantastic job with the props, the track, and the coding programs for their track! Everyone was very engaged and gave a lot to their group's creativity!

Students in Mr. Coolbaugh's 8th grade Technology Trans-

portation courses designed and made CO2 cars. Their designs

were unique and they used each step in the Engineering Design Process. Here we have pictured Emma Owens who is being taught by Mr. Coolbaugh how to use a scroll saw.



## DMS Counseling Corner

January 22- 27 is "National Drug and Alcohol Facts" week. "Vaping" or use of electronic cigarettes is something that many young people-including Dryden students- are exposed to.

Unfortunately, our students do not always comprehend the risks connected to this habit. Peer pressure, easy access to products, and FOMO (fear of missing out) may lead to experimentation with vaping products. There is a lot of misinformation surrounding this topic, especially involving

health consequences. Here is some information on vaping from ([centeronaddiction.org](http://centeronaddiction.org)):

- E-cigarettes contain high levels of nicotine, a highly addictive drug with known health risks.
- Nicotine can affect brain development and functioning in young people.
- Use of vaping products is not a proven method for quitting smoking.
- E-cigarettes are not FDA-approved.
- It is very difficult to know what concentration of nicotine and other toxins are present in

these products due to limited federal regulations. Possessing or smoking tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, on school grounds violates the school Code of Conduct. We encourage you to educate yourself about the use of vaping products, and to have a conversation with your student about the associated risks.

## 7th & 8th Grade Music

Our 7th & 8th Grade Band students have been working diligently to complete their “New SmartMusic” technology assignments. *New SmartMusic* is an online music technology that instantly indicates a musician’s accuracy and makes a recording of their performance for further study. Contained in the online *New SmartMusic* library are not only all band lesson books that music students commonly use, but also a wide variety of concert band arrangements and solo literature.

The 7th & 8th Grade Band students are our current experimental *New SmartMusic* class. We have been exploring

the current online classroom options in hopes of obtaining student accounts for our younger 6th Grade Band students in the future.

Our 6th Grade members are preparing for the March concert performance with the Lion Band and High School Concert Band. On **Wednesday, March 20th** the Lion Band, 6th Grade Band, and High School Concert Band will perform a few selections each and also join forces for a grand finale. Their final piece will feature all three bands at once. Please feel free to join us at 7:00 p.m. This concert is FREE and open to the public.

Our Middle School Jazz Band is hard at work preparing for this year’s Annual Jazz Dessert Night. This event will be held in the Middle School Cafeteria on **Friday, April 26th at 7:00pm**. This annual event will feature the Middle School Jazz Band, Beyond Measure, and the High School Jazz Band. This is the largest fundraiser of the year for the Dryden Music Boosters. If you love to bake and would like to donate a dessert or beverage, check out our 2019 Jazz Dessert Night volunteer GoogleSheet at: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1DZ5i4jMvSCrXhIUMvVky5>



*Students in Ms. Czarnecki’s Introduction to Spanish playing “Quizlet Live” on their Chromebooks*







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## *Future World Changers*

The 6th grade team started 2019 imagining what the future might hold. What jobs would they like to have that might make the world a better place? What might they enjoy doing? Students chose a variety of possible careers in which to serve others:

- From pediatric surgeons to personal trainers
  - From graphic designers to music engineers
  - From police officers to prosecutors
  - From heavy equipment operators to land surveyors
- And these are just some of their great ideas!

Their possible future careers, along with their photographs, were put together in a photographic display for our 2nd floor hallway.

## **Dryden Middle School Boxtop Challenge...**

The collection will go to Tuesday, February 26th. The top homeroom can earn a pizza party! Remember to bring in your boxtops to your homeroom teacher.

