

*From the desk of Megan Spahr...*

It is still snowing outside, but we are anxiously awaiting signs of spring (the students AND teachers). This time of year, it can be difficult to remain motivated. When I look at Skyward, I am currently seeing more missing assignments for some students than I have the entire first semester. Please help them to remain motivated by continuing to encourage your students to complete homework, work hard, and ask questions during study hall as well as in their general education classrooms.

We have started using a new program called AutoSkill in our classroom. It is a computer-based program that gives each student a pre-test and then designs an individualized training program to help them improve skills they have difficulty understanding. There is an Academy of Math and an Academy of Reading your student will be working in depending on his/her strengths and weaknesses. The program also has a teacher monitoring component that helps me to see when the students are struggling. At that point, I can work with a student one-on-one or in small groups to re-teach and help improve the specific skill he/she is struggling to grasp. This program will help us to monitor progress and set goals for our students.

Math and algebra students are midway through the third chapter. They are currently working on adding and subtracting integers with only a few frustrations.

Geometry students are about midway through chapter 9. We are learning about surface area and volume of three dimensional objects. We will have a test over this information within a few weeks.

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade language arts students are learning more about persuasive writing. They will be writing from prompts to show their ability on this skill and practice for ISATs (which will be tested March 2<sup>nd</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>). These students will also continue to complete their spellings lessons each week.

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade literature classes, as well as the English 1 class, are working out of the textbook series. They are currently completing a unit about theme.

English 2 students are currently working on grammar. They recently took a test on nouns and pronouns, and will learn about verbs next.

Please feel free to contact me by e-mail at [mospahr@pcwolves.net](mailto:mospahr@pcwolves.net) or by phone. I can be reached at school during my prep time (9:40-10:20 daily) or after school to discuss any questions or concerns.