

Fortnightly 6th Grade Newsletter: First Half of March

Language Arts

Term 2 is ending with a reading discussion mini-unit. Students will be using their reading book to find evidence to back up opinions. For example, if a character is sneaky, what in the text shows the reader this? Students will share specific passages with their groups to demonstrate elements of literature within their book. Next week, we will put our paragraph writing to the “test”: a formal writing prompt using the 6th grade paragraph rubric.

Math

The interactive African Pattern Posters turned out great! We started an integers unit this week that looks at solving both equations and word problems involving positive and negative whole numbers (integers). Students are encouraged to use a number line to solve integer problems until they have mastered the skill. New math points for trimester 3 will start coming out next week, be sure to check in with your child on their progress with math points throughout the trimester. We went outside today to investigate the relationship between the height of an object and the length of its shadow in order to find the height of a tree. This lesson was combined with science class and used the scientific method to solve the problem that was presented.

Science

After the African Unit, we are continuing our investigation into the topic of Biology with connections to Geology such as fossil evidence for changes over time and how fossils are accurately dated. Using this information students completed a phylogenic family tree of imaginary organism in the same way a paleontologist would, by looking at how old an organism is and comparing similarities of organisms to place them in an evolutionary order. This exercise was followed by examples and a discussion of recent mammal phylogenies such as the whales, horses, elephants and canines. Students are now working on developing a graphical dichotomous key for seashells in groups as class work. This will be followed by individual homework assignments to turn the graphical key into a written one and to give scientific names to the shells (genus and species) based on the characteristic they gave to build the key and identify the shells.

Social Studies

We have finished our unit on Africa and are off to Latin America! Students will continue to use the five themes of geography to discover the cultures of Latin America. Students will need to gather any missing supplies needed for class - colored pencils, red pen, black or blue pen, pencil, and their green notebook. Notebooks will continue to hold student homework, class work, and tests. Please check your child's notebook for work and information.

I am holding on to your child's mini books on Africa but their grading rubrics will be in the grade section of their notebooks.

I will be sending out a notice (later in term 3) for help in making dishes from some of the geographic regions that we have studied. We will also be displaying our work at the World Music Festival coming in May. Date to follow!

I am available most nights for extra help.