

Fortnightly 6th Grade Newsletter: 2nd week of January

Language Arts

This week we are continuing our small unit that will tie to Art. Students are making clay shoes in Art class and we are reading and writing on a shoe theme in LA. We experimented with various shoe-worthy activities:

Have you ever thought of the lifecycle of a shoe (sustainability)?

What would it be like to walk in someone's shoes (building character)?

Ever think about the world from a shoe's point of view?

What about an ode...to barefeet or slippers or...?

We also looked into "Stuff: The Secret Lives of Things" (shoes).

Each student will pick one of these experiments to take through the writing process. We will focus on Ideas and Content, Word Choice, and Voice when revising our writing.

Math

This week we are working on finding surface area, and will also begin looking at similar shapes/proportions with a culminating shadow activity outside (dress warm!) Students learn to find surface area by making nets of 3 dimensional shapes in an activity we call the "Gift Wrap Challenge". There will be a quest on Tuesday that covers: Drawing nets/surface area, area of a parallelogram, area of irregular shapes, and the effects of doubling dimensions on the area of 2 dimensional shapes. Students should have 40 or more math points by this time in the trimester. Math points are always available in the math point bin in class, there are over 100 points available already for trimester 2.

Science

Students received their Journals back after an evaluation on their performance. Most classes will now start with a short journal activity consisting of making a summary of pod/vodcasts with a discussion session to follow. These entries will be considered into their 2nd Trimester class work grades and based on whether they improve from their previous work overall. Journal entries will also include nature walks into Parson's Woods and as such your children should be prepared to go outside at any time, please make sure they have the necessary clothes in their lockers for these excursions.

The "Rock Cycle Webquest" is coming to a finale with the majority of students on the verge of acquiring the last part before the final product, that being a blog entry which will include their concept maps and a narration of the entire cycle.

Students have also spent time accessing their Edline accounts (to learn how to find their 2nd Trimester grades and for a chance for improving home work scores) and learning about causes of current events like the Nor'easter, and why 49 states had snow on the ground this week.

Social Studies

In social studies students are continuing to work on chapters 22-23-24 (South Asia). We have seen some mini movies about the culture of India and will continue to explore the many exciting things associated with India and South Asia. Students are also working in music class on India. Ask your student about what is happening in music and social studies.

In this unit there will be enrichment opportunities for students who wish to expand their knowledge.

Coming up next is our study of Africa. Our kick off activity will be in late January. There will be a project assigned in this unit. Look in late January for information and the rubric to

come home.

I continue to offer extra help after school on most nights - Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday - and Mrs. Sparks also has homework club for any student on Monday - Thursday nights until 3:30. This is a great way for students to work on homework, complete missing work, or receive extra help.

Do not forget to check your students green binder for materials that we are working on in class as well as for information on grades. I pass back materials to the students and have them put the materials in their binder for safe keeping.