

# news

## Upcoming Field Trips



## Kindergarten

Week of January 20-24, 2014

## Projects

It's been another busy week in the land of kindergarten. We've been working hard on number bonds in Mrs. Timko's class as we learn various combinations of making numbers up to 10 (and higher!) while also exploring 10s and 1s in further detail. Mrs. Katschke's class has been busy tallying, graphing, and analyzing data and will be moving onto 10s and 1s next. Our little readers and writers continue to build their growing skills through various hands-on opportunities. Mrs. Timko's guided reading group has been enjoying reading leveled books tailored to their current reading level while also working on making predictions about text when reading; while Mrs. Katschke's guided reading group has been reading their leveled readers while also exploring snowmen and /ch/, /th/ and /sh/ blends. In Science, the kinder kiddos have been continuing their exploration of weather and seasons. Our Social Studies focus this past week has been on Martin Luther King, Jr. and all of the accomplishments he made in his life to help others be kind to all. We continue to support Dr. King's important dream by extending kindness to others while including them rather than leaving them out. We also enjoyed taking a walk through the Upper School Science Fair on Thursday. We were very impressed by the talents of our older MPA school mates!

## School Wide Events

## Responsive Classroom

## Grade 1

First grade is getting back into the groove after a winter break that was followed by a plethora of weather cancellations, holidays, and a teacher in-service. In math we are finishing up a unit on multiplication and will starting a brand new unit on geometry next Monday. In science we are continuing our units of solids, liquids and gases and will be taking advantage of the weather and learning the "science of snow crystals". In language arts we are continuing to work on writer's craft

through writer's workshop and will be starting a publishing project next week in which our students' work will be sent away to Student Treasures Publishing and published into their own hardback books. Mr. Thompson's class has now finished their author study of Patricia Polacco and will be moving on to an author study on Doreen Cronin.

## Grade 2

In Science this week we had a real geologist come visit and tell us about his job! It was so neat to learn about the different rocks and minerals that he was able to show us. We saw sample pages of books that students would have to study in college if they wanted to be a geologist. Thank you to Mr. Hamilton for teaching us all this! We were also able to stop by the science fair to check out all the experiments and see our crystals on display. Great job on your posters, everybody!

In Social Studies this week we shared our cultural items. It was fascinating to see just how diverse our learning community really is. Thank you for taking the time to help them complete this assignment. They will take the test over cultures at the end of the week. Next week students will begin learning about people who have made a difference in their communities. There will be a major project that involves researching a person of great impact. More information will be provided once students select their topics

## Grade 3

Newsletter for the week of  
January 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>

**Math:** We continue to work on geometry and will be finishing the unit at the end of the week. Students will have two upcoming "projects" to work on. The first one will be a geometry "town" that they will be constructing out of various components of our geometry unit. Students will have class time to work on this, but may need to finish at home if not completed during the day. The other "project" will be a group project that will take place during school as well with the help of Mr. O'Donnell. Students will be picking a topic out of our geometry unit as well as our upcoming unit of area, perimeter, and volume. Once students pick their topic, they will work with other group members to "teach" the lesson to the class. The lesson will be recorded with video cameras and shown to the class. More details to follow after next week J

**L.A.:** This week we will continue working on adjectives! Last week, we just reviewed about **boring** adjectives such as *good, bad, pretty, ugly* and that we should make our writing **colorful** as well as looking at different types such as what kind and how many adjectives! Now we will be doing adjectives that compare with incorporating writing and illustrations with them! J

**Reading:** We will continue reading in our books in literature groups! J We will also be doing another OAA packet for practice to get back into the swing of mastering the SMART 7 comprehension skill!

**Science:** We will be starting Biome Activities to pair with plant and animal adaptations. The students will select a biome and do a report on the biome of their choice. The students will gather information on the biome and then put it into a presentation that requires a visual display.

This week we will be selecting biomes, collecting information on them.  
I'm super excited for these J

**Social Studies:** Students will be working with Mr. O'Donnell this week using the laptops to create a Venn diagram on inventions and inventors in the 1800's and comparing them to today's inventions and inventors. Students will be collecting data during school in order to make their diagrams. This will be their final assessment for Unit 5. We will be starting Unit 6 *A Boat and Bus tour of the Southeast* next week.

**Upcoming Dates:**

Parent/Teacher Conferences- February 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>  
No school February 17<sup>th</sup> – President's Day  
End of Trimester 2- February 28<sup>th</sup>

## Grade 4

Week of January 20th .

**Exciting News!** 4th grade has started construction on a website of general information, including math homework help. Though we are working on it, you can check it out now at:  
[www.4thgrademenlo.weebly.com](http://www.4thgrademenlo.weebly.com).

**Reading:** We are very excited to begin our nonfiction unit, and talking about the elements of nonfiction. Along with this unit, students are reading The Lost Star, a book about Amelia Earhart. We will be using the “flipped classroom” model, so please be checking Assignaday for what chapters and student work is due. It is very exciting to get to read about this inspirational woman!

**Science:** We are currently working on Invention Convention. We are back on schedule, and students can start building their exciting inventions. We look forward to seeing what you can accomplish.

**Math:** We are finishing up our geometry unit. We will be changing our independent work next week. Please be watching for more information on this change.

**Social Studies:** Congratulations to all of the students who earned a 100 on their 50 states test! Please ask your student to name their states AND their locations -- they know them now. :) We are jumping back into American History this week, with the 13 colonies. We will be creating advertisements to convince others to settle in our assigned colony. This is great persuasion practice for us!