

Math Facts

Students in all classes have completed or are close to completing the first three chapters of their texts.

Upcoming topics for the Algebra classes include similar triangles, trigonometry, percent, probability, and graphing linear equations.

General math classes will be working with statistics and creating different types of graphs. They will then proceed to chapter five, which deals with geometry.

Tiny Science

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An ongoing activity that has proven to be very successful is the student's Beauty and Charm journals. The journals are titled Beauty and Charm after two of the six quarks, which are subatomic particles. (Students will learn more about quarks during the second quarter.) Answers to investigations are in the journals, and students can ask any question pertaining to science, questions about character, or even give me detailed descriptions about their vacations.

Another investigation students enjoyed doing was observing the melting and freezing points of mole flakes in water. Maybe one reason is that they were able to light the Bunsen burners themselves. After melting the mole flakes over the Bunsen burners, students took readings every minute for twenty minutes of the water and mole flake temperatures. They were to observe at what point the mole flakes solidified, and if the water temperature and the mole flake temperature cooled at the same rate. The results of their findings were then put onto a double line graph.

The final project for the first quarter dealt with phase changes. A phase change involves a change in a substance due to temperature increase or decrease. Students chose a phase change, such as sublimation, condensation or evaporation, and wrote a poem or descriptive paragraph about it. In addition, they drew a picture that depicted the phase change they chose.

Presently, students are working on

Language Arts and Common Time

Mrs. Agnello's classes are busy reading *The Outsiders*. This is a story about relationships, learning whom you can trust and finding out what is really important in life. The students were surprised to find out that the group of people they thought were trustworthy turned out to be very shallow, and other "gang" turned out to be the ones who really knew what was important in life. Each student spent time in the media center finding information and taking notes. The final product was a typewritten report with a bibliography.

Mrs. Leikin's classes are busy with group discussions and finishing up that huge verb unit!! Good luck on the verb exam!!

Suspense is building in Common Time! We'll take a spine-tingling twist in the next few weeks as we work on creating a suspense narrative. Students will study many literary examples to learn how to create suspense for the reader, as opposed to horror, which cheapens the plot and makes it too predictable.

Do YOU know a creepy tale... even better, a true one? Perhaps you'd like to share your most suspense-filled story with your son or daughter!

World Cultures explore the Middle East

Students in World Cultures have completed their travels around the Middle East after studying Turkey, Israel, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. One particular focus was the Palestinian and Israeli conflict. Students proposed solutions to the problem in Jerusalem by writing persuasive essays. As a culminating activity to the Unit we had a Mezze Party. During this Middle East party we sampled both Israeli and Arab foods such as matzo ball soup, lentil soup, pita bread, humus, and noodle kugel.

Second quarter will begin by traveling northeast to Russia. Students will learn about current issues in Russia, as well as previous issues such as the Cold War.

Social Studies Goes West

Eighth grade social studies began the second half of the quarter with the Westward Expansion. We studied the concept of the frontier, as well as the myths and realities of the frontier. We simulated the experience of the pioneers by moving west in our classroom wagon parties. In defining the role of the white pioneer in westward expansion, we learned about the Native American cultures that populated the continent. The students engaged in a project that highlighted specific tribes throughout North America. The significance of Native American resistance to white settlement was discovered in the project as well.

The next major unit of study will be Industrialization. We will learn how America transformed itself from an agricultural nation to an industrialized

La Clase de Español

Spanish students have completed the chapter on clothing, and now we are learning all about shopping. Vocabulary, grammar, and expressions for clothing, colors, and stores have been the focus. To practice these concepts each student created a fictional store and produced an advertisement for their store. Additionally, everyone participated in small group skits about shopping.

On Nov. 2 a very special holiday in the Hispanic world is Día de los Muertos, a day in which people celebrate the lives of deceased relatives. We will celebrate this holiday in class.

world that have had an impact on humanity through their discoveries or inventions. Some examples that are being researched are the

pyramids, the Mayans, and Stephen Hawking. The research will be put into a hard cover book, including a table of contents, bibliography, and a map of the

