

5th and 6th Grade Team December Newsletter

Language Arts

Fifth and sixth grade students are in the middle of writing personal narratives about an event in their lives. We are taking their writing through the writing process- prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing. With the addition of the chromebooks, students will be able to type or publish their final copies. Students are sharing some good ideas in their personal narratives.

We continue to study vocabulary and are learning the meanings of many words which students should be using in their writing and speaking. I know that they are tentative about using the words, but we keep at it.

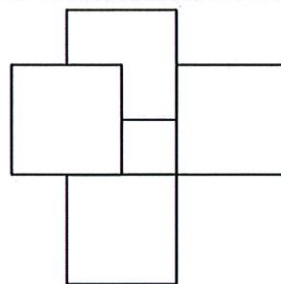


We have been busy in Math with Mrs.Farland!

5th grade: Exploring fractions, 2D shapes and their attributes, different types of angles, and problem solving tasks. Students are participating in each of these learning experiences during stations.

6th grade: Practicing multiplying decimals, dividing decimals, 2D shapes and their attributes, and problem solving tasks. We are working on building on what we know to help solve new problems.

*All students have been strengthening their “Math Talk” during our daily Math Talk.



What is the area of this shape?

******Thanks to all of you who donated the BMS Food Drive to support Canterbury Cares. It was a huge success! ******



with Mrs. Waters

Grade 5:

Over the past few weeks in science class we have explored the following questions in our Mystery Science **SPACESHIP EARTH UNIT:**

1. How fast does the Earth spin?
2. Who set the first clock?
3. How can the Sun tell you the season?
4. Why do the stars change with the seasons?
5. Why does the moon change shape?

Grade 6:

Over the past few weeks we have explored:

The water cycle and the molecular properties of water.

We are beginning geology which includes the layers of the Earth, minerals, types of rocks, plate tectonics and the rock cycle.

We have a virtual field trip scheduled in three sessions Dec. 4, 8, and 18th with a DEEP Staff member, Mr. Ross of Dinosaur State Park. Topics covered will be: Geologic Time, The Ancient Climate of Connecticut, and Dinosaurs of Connecticut.

Second Step Weekly Lessons

5th Grade:

We have completed the first Second Step unit on empathy and skills for learning. We have learned what empathy and respect are, how to listen with attention, how to be assertive, predicting feelings, taking others' perspectives, accepting differences, disagreeing respectfully, and responding with compassion. Now we are working on practicing those skills each day

6th Grade:

We've completed the first Second Step unit on mindsets and goals. We've learned how to set specific goals, break down big, long term goals into a series of smaller, short-term goals, monitor our progress toward achieving them, and come up with ways to adjust strategies if we're encountering roadblocks that get in the way.

Mrs. Messier's Reading Class



In grade 5, students have been working in the HMH, Ed, Your Friend in Learning online reading program. This month, the focus has been on "Inventor's at Work." In this module, students are exposed to a variety of genres, such as informational text, magazine articles, and fantasy. Within the units, students learn about point of view, author's purpose, and practice how to answer a constructed response in reading using the RACES writing strategy. After the break, we will move into Module 2, we will continue to study genre, context clues, and vocabulary.

In grade 6, students have been working in the HMH online reading program, module 1, "Eyes on the Prize" where students read about people who have created positive change in our world. In this unit, students study different genres, such as photo essays, documentaries, and informational texts with an emphasis on the RACES writing strategy, using context clues to determine meaning of unfamiliar words, point of view, and vocabulary. In the weeks after break, students will move into module 2 which include genres such as fantasy, realistic fiction, and persuasive texts.

HOMEWORK: Students work in the i-Ready reading program which is individually customized for each student to practice skills at their own instructional level.

Social Studies



Grade 5: The Spanish Armada defeated, English colonists begin arriving in America. The colonies begin to develop and grow rapidly. Differences in climate and resources makes the colonies in each area different. Soon the colonists will be brought together for a common purpose...independence!

Grade 6: In our study of world cultures and geography, we are currently at our second port of call in Asia: Japan and the Koreas. Martial arts, high tech manufacturing, Japan and Korea not only hold their own in the world economy, but are leaders in many areas of industry world wide. However, these two countries also share a dark history with each other through most of the 20th century.

