



Bulldog News

@ Grant Elementary School

January 15, 2021

A cooperative school & home newsletter for the Grant School community.

MATH NEWS: Mr. Morris

Mr. Morris' fifth grade students have been studying all about fractions. We just wrapped up adding and subtracting fractions and are about half way through learning how multiplying and dividing fractions are very similar but still different. Children learned that the steps to add and subtract fractions are totally different when comparing it to multiplying and dividing fractions. Many of the students have expressed that they enjoy multiplying and dividing fractions more because it is easier, but it does require more practice learning the steps. Our sixth grade math classes are learning what Mr. Morris calls "big boy and big girl" Algebra. Mr. Morris has stressed that the math computations should become easier but learning all of the steps is what may make the math seem complicated at first. The sixth graders have been told that Algebra is like learning a new language and once you learn what the numbers and letters mean it will all start to make much more sense.

SCIENCE NEWS: Ms. Hayward

Fifth Grade Science is finishing up our ecosystems unit. We have researched different ecosystems and created food webs that belong in each ecosystem. Students have enjoyed using google meet breakout rooms to work in groups to complete a google drawing whereby all the students can edit the same document at the same time providing an "in school group work project" environment. Science in the sixth grades has us working on energy transfer in ecosystems and beyond, such as chemical, electrical, and mechanical energy transfer. Students will be using an online application to wire circuits to determine things as conductors or insulators within the circuit.



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Happy New Year! Before the break the fifth grade students created vision boards for 2021. This is a great way for students to set goals for themselves. Visualization is a skill we use in reading and what it does is it creates mental pictures in our mind that help us remember what we read. It also helps us stay focused and motivated which will help with achieving our goals. In Writing, we have been learning ways to elaborate through adding thoughts, action, dialogue, description and feelings. We created an acronym, "TADDF," to help us remember the qualities of good writing while we are creating our writing pieces. We have also written descriptive pieces that included figurative language and TADDF. Adding literary devices strengthens the writing and allows the reader to have a clear understanding of what the author is trying to convey and also be able to connect to the characters.

In Reading, we are noticing all this good writing as we are continuing to read our novel, Frindle. While we are working on deepening our writing we are also working on grammar skills. This week we have been working on commas. Putting a comma in a sentence can totally change the meaning of the sentence. It can also allow the students to elongate a sentence by adding commas and conjunctions. As we are reading the novel, they are recognizing why it is important to have commas. We will be revising our writing next week and add commas where they belong. Lastly, we have been talking about perspective and looking at Frindle from Mrs. Granger's eyes. We also tied this into our SEL lesson on how people might have different perspectives and feelings about the same things and situations in real life, too. Seeing other people's perspectives can help you get along better.

In Social Studies we learned to identify how climate differs from weather. We also analyzed how climates shape Earth's ecosystem. In the last couple weeks we have been learning about renewable and nonrenewable resources. We worked on an interactive slide through Pear Deck. The students really enjoyed it. We have been discussing ways people depend on the environment and how we can either harm or protect it. This chapter also focuses on the factors that make an area more desirable and why people move. We examined a Scholastic News article where the students read an article on how immigrants played an important role in U.S. history. Students shared their thoughts and worked in discussion groups to analyze the push and pull factors of migration. The students really love working in break out rooms.

Our sixth grades have settled into a nice routine. They have been checking their Google Classroom more than once a day to keep up on their work. In Social Studies, we have been extensively studying the Declaration of Independence. The students are interested in why the American Colonists' were angered with King George III, and are learning about the grievances that the Colonists had against Britain. At the present time, the students are working in groups in Google breakout rooms to draft their own Declaration of Independence from the point of view of the American colonists. In ELA, we are focusing on the Parts of Speech, and identifying the parts of speech in sentences from the novel that we are reading as a group. We are reading, The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963, and the students are fully engaged in life during the 1960's. The students are happy, working hard and I could not be happier with them!



Greetings from Guidance

Thank you so much for your continued support as we navigate the difficulties of remote learning, we truly could not do it without the partnership of our amazing Grant School families! I have had the wonderful opportunity to teach an SEL (Social Emotional Learning) Lesson to each homeroom weekly since September. Seeing the kids faces and interacting with them on a more personal level truly makes my day.

Ms. Kovary

Dates to Remember

Monday	January 18	Martin Luther King Jr. Day School Closed
Monday-Tuesday	February 15-16	President's Day School Closed