



Bulldog News

@ Grant Elementary School

March 26, 2021

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

SCIENCE NEWS: Ms. Hayward

The students in fifth grade are studying stars and the most famous star, our Sun! We are using doodle notes to find out facts about the universe, our galaxy, our Sun, and other important stars in our galaxy. We have learned that the 23.5 degree tilt of the Earth causes our seasons along with the revolution around the Sun. As a final aspect of this unit, we will study eclipses and how they occur on Earth. Our sixth grade students just finished a unit on force and motion. Students learned about Free-Body diagrams and forces that act on objects. Students will begin a small unit on Newton's 3rd Law of Motion, usually referred to as Action/Reaction. Students will use an online comic strip generator to create a project about Newton's 3rd Law by the end of the month. In fifth grade math, students just finished dividing fractions and will spend the next few days reviewing addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of fractions. Then the students will head into a short unit about line plots and data analysis, and from there, students will study the volume of 3D shapes and the formula for calculating the volume.



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Visit our website at:
https://www.rpps.net/our_schools/grant_elementary_school

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The fifth graders were eager to finish our non-fiction novel, Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes. This is one of my favorite novels and now many of your children's favorite as well. It is a true story about a young girl who becomes the symbol of peace. Please ask your children to give you a retell. Our readers have also been working hard on tackling complexity in non-fiction text and we are uncovering what makes a main idea complex. It is important that readers study text structure in order to understand complex text. For this reason we have been dissecting different types of paragraphs, chunking them and asking ourselves whether it is a cause and effect paragraph, compare and contrast, sequence, problem and solution or description paragraph. It is helpful for students to summarize often by jotting, asking themselves what else the text is teaching, using their own words to summarize and studying the text features. In writing, we are finishing our informational docs or slides. The children were able to choose their own topic of interest and what they are mostly excited about is they are making it their own. In social studies, we are learning about the different economic systems. We worked on a compare and contrast chart of the different types. Students discussed the relationship between the three factors of production. We learned that we are consumers and you need consumers and producers to keep the economy going. The students have a better understanding of how supply and demand affect our everyday lives. Right now we are discussing the importance of a budget and why it is important to save.





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March has definitely come in like a lion this month in ELA! The students revisited figurative language in the forms of smiles, metaphors, personification, alliteration and something new, oxymorons. To wrap up this unit of study, the students read sentences with things we often associate with St. Patrick's Day. For example, "The lucky lad who lands a leprechaun will get three wishes to let him go." The students correctly identified the sentence as an example of alliteration. (two or more words that begin with the same letter!)

During this month of March, we have been celebrating Women's History Month. This year, Women's History Month is celebrating women's suffrage; which means the right for women to vote in elections. During 6G's SEL classes, the students went on a scavenger hunt through the internet to learn about several strong, determined women with an obvious growth mindset, who achieved some of the most amazing accomplishments in history.

In ELA class in our mini- lesson activities, and using several mentor texts, the students are learning strategies to help them grow as strong readers, and how to apply the strategies to their independent novels. We identified the strategies, and classified them into three groups- The "Before" strategies to activate students' prior knowledge and set a purpose for reading, The "During" strategies that help students make connections, monitor their understanding, generate questions, and stay focused, and The "After" strategies to summarize, reflect, and respond to text. Responding to text, and remembering to cite evidence from the text, continues to be the most challenging and is definitely a work in progress!

Lastly, we welcomed home our Cohorts A and B, and the students are thrilled to be together.





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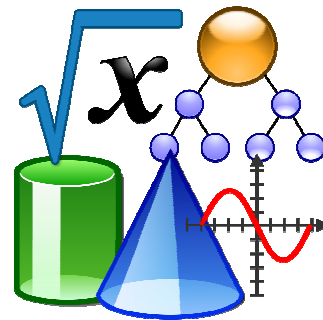
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SIXTH GRADE MATH NEWS: Mr. Morris

The sixth grade math classes have just wrapped up the geometry unit where the students completed the most difficult section of the curriculum; Surface Area of Prisms and Pyramids. The students worked hard and completed several challenging equations that required the use of several formulas along with a series of many steps to successfully solve the surface areas of prisms and two types of pyramids. That's right, two types of Pyramids (Square and Triangle Base)! The work required several pieces of scrap paper, drawings and sketches, calculator usage, and a lot of mental math. The students worked hard and failed to grasp the concepts early on when the material was first introduced but as the days went on, they began to develop an understanding that they can look at complex shapes and use various ways to solve the equations.



Highlights and Shout Outs

Dates to Remember

Friday	April 2	Good Friday – School Closed
Monday-Friday	April 19-23	Spring Break - School Closed