

Weekly 6th Grade Newsletter: First Half of May

Language Arts

We finished up a quick Pumpkin Promo to support the Pretty Big Pumpkin Company. We will print these seed packets and offer them to the community. We focused on promoting the positives without false advertising. Students used various resources and technology tools to complete this project. There is an enrichment piece available.

Next up, a novel study. More details will follow on my edline update.

Author Terry Farrish will be visiting for a day in June to share her writing talents. We thank the REF for the grant that made her visit possible.

Math

Today we are beginning the culminating activity for our probability unit...carnival games! Students will design and build a carnival game that includes a minimum of two simple machines. Each carnival game will be analyzed by their owners to find out the theoretical probability of winning and losing, and the experimental probabilities will be tested by other students at the carnival day (date tba). Math points are due June 3rd, get them done early!

Science

We are finishing up our exploration of Chemistry with mini-labs/examples of various chemical reactions that students learn about while taking notes in class. We will be finishing up chemistry next week and there will be a test the following week on all the concepts covered, from the difference between an atom and an element to what is meant by an exothermic versus an endothermic reaction. If your child would like to check their notes, a copy for each day can be found on EdLine by going to the calendar (April) and clicking on the notes for the day they were taken.

Last week students learned about simple machines by exploring the seven different types in an on-line activity from Edheads (see my page to try these activities for yourself). This activity took them through four rooms in Edhead's house where they had

to find and identify 10 simple machines and then the tool shed where they learned that common objects were compound machines built of multiple simple ones. They kept track of their scores by making a screen shot of their grade for each room, pasting this to a word document, and then uploading the completed form to their Google Apps account and sharing it with me.

Social Studies

Welcome back from vacation! We are starting our new unit on Europe. Homework for this unit will be individualized so please check the agenda. Students will be working both in small groups and individually throughout the rest of the year.

CPR will be taking place in the social studies classes over the next two weeks. Thank you to Mrs. Smith and the PTA for funding for this program. All students will be receiving their CPR card before school lets out. This is the 9th year CPR has been offered to the 6th grade.

Goss Farm Field Trip

On the 12th of May we will be helping Goss Farm by planting an acre of potatoes on this newly acquired conservation land. Permission slips were handed out on the 5th and are due no later than the 11th. Students will split into a morning and afternoon groups; walk from RJH to the farm via the trails in Parson's Woods to Rye Rec. ball fields and then proceed to their destination via the Awcomin Marsh trail which borders Goss Farm. They will be returning by bus to RJH. To learn more about the farm click [here](#).

Learning Compact

All parents have been called with updates on goals set by your children for the last trimester. If you have not connected with your child's homeroom teacher feel free to contact them at any time.