

Teacher Write-Ups 3-19-19

1-2

Spring has sprung in the grades 1/2 classroom! We'll be learning about the Equinox this week. We are still focussing on marine mammals and the ocean in science as well with a field trip to Point Cabrillo the first week of April. My class takes this trip each year and curriculum focus rotates. This year we'll be learning more about whales with the Point Cabrillo naturalists. In language arts we are beginning our final book of a module called "Creature Features" this week. The students had an introduction to typing last week as they typed a sentence to accompany their illustration of two animals. The illustrations and sentences will be in a class book called "Creature Features" that we'll "publish" this week. In math the first graders are learning to tell time to the hour and half hour and second grade is reviewing that while practicing subtracting three digit numbers.

We are looking forward to the school wide "No One Eats Alone" picnic the three legged race that is planned for Monday after a couple weeks of postponing due to rain. Another exciting piece of school news is the playground tire project. I picked up some old tires from Coast Tires and the Junior High painted them bright colors. Our plan is to link them all together to create a new play structure for my young students since the boat has sailed to the dump. My class is excited for something new on the playground.

Please get in touch with any questions!

Thanks,

Kim

3-4

From the 3-4 classroom

Students really enjoyed researching marine animals for the Noyo Science Fair. Student engagement and enthusiasm were very high for every aspect of the project including research (using a template and links I had found and loaded into Google Classroom) and the hands-on construction. Student teams of two worked collaboratively on an assigned species of pelagic creature indigenous to our local waters.

The Noyo Center Project coincides with the Sea Module we are working on for our ELA Wit and Wisdom. Yes, I planned it that way, and it actually worked out!! Presently, we are studying the nonfiction book by Dan Yaccarino, "The Fantastic Undersea Life of Jacques Cousteau."

Kids are now presenting their oral presentations and hands-on project for Native Americans (grade 3) and California Missions (grade 4). Students (and parents) have done an exceptional job with this task this year.

Students look forward to a field trip on the 26th to see a live dance performance of Magic School Bus at the Luther Burbank Center in Santa Rosa. We will also stop by the fish hatchery

at Lake Sonoma afterward as we have in times past. It is possible that the steelhead are running back to the hatchery right now, but it will be enlightening whether they are or are not running.

Thank you for the hard work and gazillions of hours you guys all give up to serve our school and kids!

5-6

Hi Board Members,

This week in 5/6 we are finishing up our human body system reports and posters. We used Ms. Morgan's kids as our outline models for the posters, which was great fun. Student groups will be presenting next week. Today, we took a break from the human body project to play with engineering concepts. Working with a set of materials and a partner, students explored simple machines, creating balances and pulley systems. Afterward, they shared their ideas with classmates before dismantling their work in preparation for the next phase.

In Language Arts, we are reading and listening to different versions of The Odyssey. Students are learning about the hero story arc and preparing to write their own fictional works. Interest is high as students are tackling concepts like hubris and humility, as well as the boundaries of duty, responsibility, and self-control. I am so impressed with students' thoughtful responses to these challenging questions. (It's getting pretty deep around here.)

Linda Tulley

7

Hello everyone!

We have had an exciting and busy month! The students completed the school science fair, where they had to make and present a project where they had to explain what they did using the scientific method. We had examples from, "Which solar panel model melts butter the fastest," to "Are People More Left Brained or Right Brained." The students had a lot of fun and I had a lot of fun looking at all of the completed projects.

In science we have been studying plate tectonics, and how humans have impacted the Earth's natural resources and how the natural resources formed due to plate tectonics. The students will have a quiz next week on this topic.

In 7th grade English the students are wrapping up their unit on "What can change a persons life" by writing their unit paper and presenting their presentation.

In personal news I have learned that the baby is a girl, and I am eagerly awaiting her arrival in early July.

Have a great week.

Dani

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This month in the Junior High Classroom we really enjoyed engineering and participating in the display that our school sent to the Noyo Marine Science Center Fair. Each of the students got to decide between participating as artists, engineers, or helpers and support for the final project. The kids did a wonderful job working together and learning and practicing grit as they encountered problems all under a very tight deadline of one week.

They also have been studying more about the history of China focusing on the teachings of Confucius which closely align with our REACH values.

The 8th grade students are busy in math with a new unit on exponents. They all did the best ever on the test on statistics and graphing data! In English they are working on writing argumentative essays.

As the weather has warmed up the garden is starting to go at full speed. The students have lots of baby seedlings they are keeping track of from peas to broccoli to celery and baby tomatoes. They were able to make Kale chips which they shared with other classes using Kale they grew themselves! They are now learning how to use chemistry to do soil tests for nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium and pH levels.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Kasperson