

**Maria Gibson- Grades 1&2**

Good afternoon Board Members,

Our morning meetings are discussing the REACH goal of hard work as well as working on our daily practices of counting money and vocabulary.

The ELA centers are choral reading from the reading A-Z program with Ms. B reading the non-fiction book (Level L) Chichen Itza, (Level K) fiction book The Five Brothers and the decodable text for the words with a long /u/ and silent e “No More Sad Tunes.”

In the writing center with Ms. Brinks In Group 3, we are now trying to write 2 paragraphs!! Group 2 is 1 paragraph and Group 1 is writing using sight word mini books and sentence frames. Phonological awareness is working on words with the long /u/ and silent e word patterns. In the Wit & Wisdom curriculum we are enjoying the module called The American West. We are currently in the process of reading Journey of a pioneer!! This book describes the Oregon Trail from the perspective of a girl called Olivia and a diary account.

We are now on Unit 6 in the Math Bridges Curriculum . First Grade students are working on story problems using penguins and measuring height. Second Grade students are looking at fractions, in particular  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

In social studies we are looking at civics, singing songs, looking at the Great Seal, Statue of Liberty and Mount Rushmore. In science we are looking at the unit about different types of materials and how objects are made. This includes inventions and creating your own invention!!

Art occurs every Thursday. We will be creating designs on face masks this week to imitate the native american indian designs from our Wit & Wisdom curriculum.

Mrs. Gibson

**Natalie Shoptaw- Grades 3&4**

This month:

PowerSchool conducted a large update and some of our settings seem altered. This created report card havoc requiring time-consuming workarounds. We will be working on refining this so that semester 2 report cards run more smoothly. Semester 1 report cards went out.

Students are reading George vs. George in ELA which looks at both perspectives of the American Revolution, along with impact to Native Americans. Because we have been/are using the Liberty's Kids cartoons as social studies lessons, students are really enjoying the reading. The students bring big background knowledge with them, and are getting a lot out of this very dense and challenging text.

Students are moving into fractions now, although I've created a system of circling back weekly to briefly work on skills needed to narrow gaps from the 1.5 year remote learning period.

### **Dani Krebs- Grades 5&6**

Hello everyone. The 5th/6th grade class is full of very enthusiastic students with a lot of varied interests. They are a lot of fun to teach because they are always bringing new ideas to discussions and activities. In science we are learning about the sky and space, and we will be making a solar system project in the near future. Today the students created their own planets and whether it is habitable or not, and they are all excited to share their planets with the class. In ELA we are learning about the hardships that early colonists faced when coming to the New World, and how they interacted with each other and the Native Americans. We are reading *Blood on the River* to help our understanding of the events during this time. Both the 5th and 6th graders are learning about fractions in math, and the 5th graders are using manipulatives to give them a physical representation of a fraction.

On Fridays we started playing this interactive game called Cataclysm in which the students work in tribes to solve a mystery. To solve this mystery, not only do the students have to work together, but they have to make decisions that affect their rewards for the game. So it is teaching them how their decisions affect their lives. They also have to solve puzzles and write down their thoughts. There is also a "market" where they can barter and trade for supplies and they are learning about supply and demand. The students love it! I also enjoy leading them through this on Fridays.

Due to the students participation in the "Change Challenge," I am going to give the students a pizza party even though we did not win. But our jug had the most money in it!

Until next time.

## **Mike Lang- Grades 7&8**

We're excited to be working hard into February on all of our class subjects.

We recently learned some Camouflage and Fibonacci Art, a blend of a Mathematics sequence and art skills. We also began our Spring Investment Project and had our first opportunity to track, buy and sell our stocks.

Our class will be wrapping up our *Hatchet* novel study this week and have learned some key concepts in figurative language and literacy, as well as practiced our writing skills. We're going to be starting a new novel after the February break to continue our short novel series.

We did great work at navigating our introductory Algebra concepts over the past weeks. We've come full circle, cycling back to our graphing skills from the first semester. This class does a great job of decomposing mathematical equations and working through difficult problems.

Our Health class is approaching our California Sexual and Reproductive Health unit. Families were provided an opportunity this past Friday to opt out their students, should they so choose. In P.E., we learned how to line dance these past couple of weeks (I encourage you to play Footloose for the students) and will be learning some other dance moves/routines throughout the month. We also had the opportunity to conduct a decomposition experiment on apple slices in Science.

Lastly, we are approaching the War of 1812 in History and are following the expansion of the United States. We just finished learning about the Louisiana Purchase and Lewis and Clark's first expedition west. We will be learning about the Civil War beginning in March.