



November 2009

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Washington Grove Elementary School

Volume 1, Issue 3

Mark Your Calendars

- Parent-Teacher Conferences Nov. 11 and Nov. 12
- Early Dismissal for students Nov. 11 and Nov. 12 at 1:00pm
- Early Dismissal - Nov. 25
- Thanksgiving Holiday-no school Nov. 26&27

Reading

As the second quarter begins, we will take a look at poetry and informational text. We will use different graphic organizers to synthesize new knowledge gained through reading.

Students will read and analyze poems. We will study figurative meanings to help us interpret poems. Reading information or non-fiction, text is essential to everyone. It is important that



our students examine the unique features of these types of text that they will encounter throughout their lives.

During this quarter, 5th graders will also read fantasy. We will use this type of text to discuss the author's language and description.

Math

The fifth grade math classes have begun Unit 2 which focuses on plane geometry. They are learning that points, lines, and planes are the foundations of geometry. They are identifying and describing two and three dimensional figures by properties including number and size of angles, vertices, edges, and shapes of faces. In addition, they are using protractors to measure angles and will be drawing circles and identifying relationships among the radius, diameter, and circumference.

Math 6 students have also begun work on Unit 2. They are exploring how fractions, decimals, and percents can be used interchangeably. They are adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing with

decimals and fractions. They are determining equivalent ratios, decimals, and percents and comparing and ordering rational numbers in equivalent forms.



Science

The next unit in science is magnets and electricity. We are exploring magnets while making our own compasses. These will be great for those long trips during summer vacations.

Our exploration starts with electricity and using static electricity to engage our thinking. We will continue by making circuits and then seeing the connection between electricity and magnet-

ism. Students will learn the different types of circuits and test them out with conductors and insulators. When we get into magnets, students will discuss the effects of magnets on other objects and how the strength of it depends on the amount of magnets.

Towards the end of this unit, we will combine electricity and magnetism by building an electromagnet.

Much of these science lessons focus on learned inquiry, where students become more independent thinkers. They explore as many ideas as possible to reach answers to their questions during their investigations.



Writing

Currently, students are working on the annual Martin Luther King Essay Contest. Every student participates and makes a personal connection to this great hero. This year's topic is: "Honoring Heritage: Inspiring Change." We have started the research and brainstorming process. We plan to have final drafts completed by Dec. 2.

Also, in the second quarter,

students will apply what they have learned in their poetry study from reading to create their own poems. They will focus on a specific topic and will use sensory details to express their ideas. They will then recite their poems at Poetry Night on January 20, 6:30-7:30. More details about this event will be announced as it comes closer.



Dickinson