

February/March 2017



Advanced Intermediate Department

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Religion

Students are tracing the significant events of the Israelite journey from Egypt to the promised land in Canaan, by annotating a map of the Sinai peninsula in Google Drawing. We will interpret the meaning of God's Ten Commandments to determine how these guidelines for holy living can be applied to our own lives.

During March we will reflect on the meaning of Lent in the context of our liturgical year. Examples of God's forgiveness and mercy will be discussed as we connect God's relationship with the Israelites and Jesus' saving words and works. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be emphasized as a powerful way to encounter God's mercy and deepen our faith.

Important Dates

February 22	12:15 p.m. dismissal (No After School)
February 23-24	No School (Rodeo Break)
February 28	JH Show @ 6:30 p.m. (buy your tickets now)
March 1	Ash Wednesday
March 2	JH Show @ 6:30 p.m. (buy your tickets now)
March 10-17	No School (Diocesan In-service and Spring Break)
March 25	The Event (a.k.a. the auction)

Cindy McCoy - Language Arts

Congratulations to our four winners in the Tucson Festival of Books, Young Author's Contest! Daphne Graham, Aurora Fontaine, Lily Huether, and Filomena Fontaine's original stories were chosen from entries from all of Southern Arizona, grades K-12. Please join us at the Festival of Books Awards Ceremony, Saturday, March 11th, at the Main Entertainment Stage on the U of A Mall, at 10:00 am, to honor our accomplished authors.

Our AI students are more "fit" in parts of speech as a result of our "Grammar Bootcamp." Students have mastered the basics of diagramming sentences, but will be further challenged as we move forward with prepositions, appositives, compound sentences, and more. In March, AI students will be using their Literature Circle discussion skills while reading books by Newbery Award winning authors. Fifth graders will be reading, Number the Stars, by Lois Lowry. This story takes place in Nazi occupied Denmark in 1943. Courage and friendship are the major themes of this compelling story. Sixth graders are reading, Duke, by Kirby Larson. In this story, an eleven-year old is determined to do his part to help his family and country during WWII, by giving up his beloved German Shepherd, Duke, to the military. Sacrifice and bravery in troubled times, are the major themes of this powerful story.

Ms. Maas - Math

Fifth graders have just begun a unit about geometry and measurement entitled "Measuring Polygons." During this unit, students investigate the classification of polygons by attributes such as

length of sides and size of angles. They will solve problems about perimeter, a linear measure and area, a two-dimensional measure. Students will also investigate the relationships among mathematically similar figures.

During the month of March students will begin a unit about decimals called "Decimal on Grids and Number Lines." In this unit students will develop an understanding of the relationships between fractions, percents, and decimals. They will use knowledge from our last unit, What's My Portion? to assist with comparing and ordering decimals and to add decimals.

In sixth grade, students are focusing on understanding and developing systematic ways to accurately compute with fractions and mixed numbers. Students will be introduced to many interesting problem situations that will help them develop algorithms for fraction computation in real life scenarios. Students will also be using benchmarks and operation sense to estimate solutions in order to help them decide if their exact answers are reasonable.

Later in March, students will be moving into a unit titled "Covering and Surrounding." Students will further develop their understanding of various measurements, including perimeter(surrounding), area and surface area(covering), and volume(filling). They will also investigate what happens to these measurements when there is a change in dimensions.

Brenda Ward - Social Studies

*5th Grade - We began our American Revolutionary unit in mid-January. This is a lengthy unit in which students' overarching unit goal will be to show proficiency in explaining the causes and effects of the American Revolution from the perspective of the colonists. This unit will also include a legislative project - "How is a Bill created?" Students will create their own "bill," and it will be reviewed and voted upon via our classroom "Congress." Producing a project such as this helps students to connect with our founding fathers' ideas during the American Revolution, and gives them a sense of "history in the making." Kudos to Fifth Grade!! ***Upcoming: March - April Completion of the American Revolution and beginning of the Civil War unit.*



*6th Grade - We have been very busy learning to write informational essays about civil rights leaders of the 1960's, which included Martin Luther King, John F. Kennedy, and Mahatma Gandhi (from the 1940's). We also just completed our ancient Chinese unit including a chapter test, and the unit will be culminated by having a mini-Chinese New Year's celebration this week. During late February - late March we will be exploring our Egyptian unit, which will include the standard of understanding how ancient civilizations honored their ancestors. As a reinforcement of this standard, we will also be mummifying bananas to utilize a practical application of embalming, and there is much discussion about this process; they are excited about this St. Cyril tradition! Way to go, Grade 6! ***Upcoming: March-April: Ancient Rome and Greece; understanding governments of these ancient civilizations.*



Patricia Crable - Science

5th graders just completed a test last week on land and water forms, climate and temperature. They will now be discussing the universe, the relationship of the sun and the earth, earth and the moon, our solar system, and the stars in the universe. Students will pick one of the stars in our universe and make a project, write a paper, or put together a PowerPoint on it and present it to the class.

6th graders will be having a test on the 16th of February. They already have their test review sheet and they will be having a review at lunch time on the 13th. We have already begun discussing the organs and systems of the human body. We will go over the digestive system, nervous system, respiratory system, circulatory system, muscular system, and skeletal system. Once we have completed the systems, the students will be dissecting frogs where they will be looking at the structure of the systems and identifying the organs. We will then begin our discussion of atoms, the parts of an atom, and molecules. The students will have a project where they will build a board to show this information and build a specific atom.