

Science- We will beginning our study of the respiratory and circulatory systems shortly. We will be looking at the functions of each system, their parts, how the parts and systems work together as well as the effects of exercise and diet on each, and what causes common diseases or conditions pertaining to these systems.

Social Studies- We are currently completing our culminating activity (flipbook) on the Southeast. Although we have shifted our focus to science, we will be studying the environment, resources, and economy of the Midwest next.

Writing- Students have worked very hard on their book reviews. We spent time working on summarizing and using quotes and evidence to reinforce opinions on the book and the author's writing style. We have begun working on persuasive writing. During the next few weeks, students will be identifying a topic. They'll be writing persuasive letters to people about things they'd like to fix/change. During that process, we'll be focusing on perspective-taking and supporting a position/argument. We are also lucky enough to be working with members of the PTA that will be staffing the publishing center, helping our students with editing and revising their pieces in a 1 on 1 setting. Please contact Mrs. Jacobson at: creativedana@yahoo.com if you're interested in helping out.

Reading- Currently, we are working on utilizing nonfiction text features (captions, pictures, maps, diagrams, table of contents, etc.). Students are also regularly doing the Daily 5 (reading to self, reading to someone, listening to reading, working on writing, and word work) each day. Students have continued adding reading strategies to their toolboxes through our work with Café (reading strategy instruction) and conferencing. We'll also be practicing test-taking strategies and extended response writing in preparation for the upcoming ISAT testing.

Math (Accel) – We will be testing on using measurement and data, analyzing line plots, converting between metric and customary systems, and rounding decimals this week. Our next unit will focus on addition and subtraction of

fractions and mixed numbers. Much of our work will be in cooperative groups while using real-life applications of these skills.

Speaking and Listening- Students have begun presenting their historical fiction book talks. When listening to other students' book talks, students have been offering feedback about strengths and weaknesses. We also followed that process during our Southeast Project presentations. I am amazed at the progress that the students have made already! We will be choosing our next genre during the next few days.

Spelling- We will continue to work on new syllables, Latin prefixes, homophones and homographs through multisyllabic words. Remember that the spelling lists are all available for home-use on the "Important Documents" page.

Other: We had our first session of the Be Smart, Be Safe program last Tuesday. It is a program by the Naperville Police Department that teaches students about general safety, what to do when a crime occurs, and how to use the internet safely. We'll be having two more sessions in the upcoming weeks.

ISAT testing- Testing will begin the week of March 3rd. More information is to come as to our schedule for testing. Please make sure students have breakfast and are well rested!