

Science- We will begin our study of the scientific method shortly. Students will be using the scientific method to classify several powders based on their properties in an interactive mystery project!

Social Studies- We are currently studying the environment, resources, and economy of the Midwest and Illinois. We had a presenter come in from the Illinois Agricultural Society to teach students about the various crops and resources that are grown in Illinois and their various uses. Students are working very hard on their state fair projects which they will be presenting during class (to other students) on Monday afternoon (5/5) and on Monday evening (7-8pm). Next, we will be studying the environment, resources, and economy of the West.

Writing- We have begun working on our next writing unit. Students will begin working on nonfiction feature articles. Feature articles are much like the writing you might see in Time for Kids or a feature in a magazine. Students will be developing a topic, pre-writing, drafting, revising and editing with one another, and finally publishing their work. Our final unit of the year will be a poetry unit in which students will write and learn about various types of poems.

Reading- Currently, we are working on utilizing comparing and contrasting within a text or between texts. 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.

Math (Accel) – We will be testing on area, volume of rectangular prisms, conversions within the metric system, using coordinate grids, ordered pairs, and capacity. Our next unit will focus on the order of operations, exponents, and understanding negative 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 nonfiction book talks. When listening to other students' book talks, students have been offering feedback about strengths and weaknesses. Students are also working on developing their speeches for state fair. I am amazed at the progress that the students have made this year! The last book talk of the year is due on May 19th and is student choice (for the genre).

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 have two field trips coming up. On May 7th, we will be going to the Kendall County Forrest Preserve to learn about food chains, agriculture of Illinois, water life and water conservation, and products and animals of Illinois. On May 15th we will be going to the Chicago History Museum to learn about the origins and development of Chicago, see the Lincoln exhibit, and the various other exhibits that represent the history of Illinois, sports, music, transportation, farming, and tourism.

We are also looking forward to state fair on May 5th. Students will need to arrive at 6:45 wearing patriotic colors or an outfit reflective of their state. Students will perform patriotic songs at 6:00 and begin presenting their projects at 6:15.