

November 20, 2020

Upcoming Dates...

Wednesday, November 25th - early dismissal

Thursday, November 26—Monday, November 30th - Thanksgiving break

Tuesday, December 1—Remote Learning Begins

December 21st through January 1—Winter Break

Monday, January 18—MLK Jr. Day, No School



We are so thankful for all the time we've had together so far!



The Novices are continuing to jump back and forth between the past and present as we compare and contrast what the Pilgrims experienced and what our lives are like now. Next week the turkeys will be flying as we ask the Novices to build catapults to help those turkeys escape that fateful day- Thanksgiving! We are also looking forward to creating Pilgrim costumes and weaving placemats for our Thanksgiving snacks!

Dana's mathematicians have moved onto 3D shapes using playdough to build them and learning words like faces, edges, and vertices to describe them. They have been playing lots of different games to learn the names of these new and unfamiliar shapes! Sarah's mathematicians have been learning about fractions, creating some delicious looking pizzas to help with this concept!



This week concluded with one of the best Author Shares ever! Sarah and Dana are so impressed by the reading and writing Novices have been doing. Some of the stories today had a whole sentence and detailed drawings and some were multi-page stories. We look forward to this time each week and today did not disappoint. Well done Novices!



NOVICES

PLAYERS

The Players had a fun but chilly Wild Wednesday this week. We braved the snow and spent our morning building shelters in the woods. After a



quick fire-building demo from Simon, we cozied up in our forts and enjoyed some hot cocoa! We've been discussing fact vs opinion and working on opinion writing and enjoyed having the chance to share our writing with each other on Thursday!



In Theme, we've been learning about government and how laws are made. We proposed our own rules for the classroom and then worked



together in committees to turn those proposals into bills. Next week, we'll be voting on which bills become laws.



It turns out that the Apprentices don't just rock while in person together; they also rock remotely! Dan and Lauryn have been so impressed and proud of the Apprentices for doing such a fantastic job working from home (and, in some cases, parents' workplaces) over the past two weeks. The *Voyage of the Frog* group finished their novel and are designing their final project: constructing a model of the titular boat the main character spends the story navigating. Meanwhile, the rest of the groups continue to have awesome discussions, and we also got to stretch our understanding of capitalization rules with a fun proofreading assignment. All three math groups have moved on to new topics, as well. The Smart Cookies are working on the "house" algorithm method of division, the French Fries are reviewing equivalent fractions, and the Mathematics have been reading, comparing, adding, and subtracting decimal numbers! We also had a blast with our new Theme: Chemistry! We learned the differences between physical and chemical changes of matter,

and we conducted an experiment to test which type of change occurred when we mixed different substances with water. The results generated a ton of awesome discussion, lots of great questions, and, for some of us, even a few unpleasant smells! We wrapped up the week by exploring the science of how and why leaves turn from green in the summer to red, orange, and yellow in autumn. We found this to be fascinating! Of course, we all miss one another and being able to work and play together, but these past two weeks have given us lots to look forward to in the weeks ahead!



APPRENTICES

VOYAGERS



The Voyagers are busy wrapping things up before we transition to remote learning after the Thanksgiving break. This week the groups finished sharing their final projects for literacy. The "Time Travelers" group shared a fascinating simulation carrying the Voyagers far into the future and to distant lands where they met up with gigantic crabs, and creatures called the Morlocks as we searched for our time machine. The "Somewhere in the Darkness" group shared an "escape room" featuring puzzles that are used to unlock a padlock code. Also, we'd like to thank Matt Pierce for meeting with us to talk about the criminal justice system, a subject central to the plot of "Somewhere in the Darkness."

The Voyagers have also been busy wrapping up our Theme unit on government, elections, and the legislative process. During the past two weeks, our in-classroom learners roleplayed members of the House of Representatives. The on-line learners were members of the Senate. Careful deliberations were given to a number of bills and a few even passed both Houses of Congress! One new law will specifically result in some improvements in the boys' bathroom. What a fun way to wrap up our Theme! We're excited to start our new Wellness Theme when we return remotely.

This week in math, the Quarantiners group transitioned from working with fractions, to working with percents. Next week, we'll set up our store with sale items. It will be interesting with so many in the group already being remote. We'll just have to embrace online shopping!

The Bubble Guppy and Die mense groups are both working on linear equations right now. The Bubble Guppy group worked on properties of graphs by 'being' an x value and seeing where they landed when a certain function rule was applied. The Die mense group has been learning all kinds of ways to solve systems of linear equations, and trying to determine the best approach for a particular problem.



In Writing Workshop the Voyagers have been busy learning comma rules. In Voyager-fashion, the challenge of learning comma rules turned into a creative and fun game - The Gramma(r) Game. The game featured 5 grandmas: Cookie Grandma, Knitting Grandma, Handbag Grandma, Martial Arts Grandma, and Supreme Grandma. As expected, the challenge of placing commas correctly in sentences got progressively more challenging as one moved up the ranks of the grandmas. The teams competed heavily, but we ended the game with homemade chocolate chip cookies from the grandmas.

We are confident that the Voyagers will embrace the upcoming transition to remote learning for 5 weeks with the same creativity, imagination and fun! We'll keep you posted!