

Walden School News

February 22, 2019

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Liz Benoit, Principal

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- Principal's Message
- News from Pre-K—Grade 8

Upcoming Dates:

February

2/25 - 3/5 - Winter Break

3/6 - Return to School

3/11 - Early Release
Inservice

3/27 - Parent Conferences
4:00 pm - 8:00 pm

3/28 - Parent Conferences
12:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Principal's Message:

Recently, school nurse, Molly Brock, met with Walden School staff to provide training on the subject of electronic nicotine delivery devices (ENDs.) ENDs are battery powered devices used to provide doses of nicotine and other additives to the user in an aerosol. Examples of ENDs include e-cigarettes, e-hookahs, hookah pens, vape pens, e-cigars, JUUL to name a few. Both disposable and rechargeable/refillable varieties are available to consumers.

According to the *2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, 1 in 10 middle school students have tried an electronic cigarette or Vape device. 81% of 12-17 year olds who have tried Vape, began with a flavored Vape product. It is estimated there are over 7,000 flavors appealing to youth, including gummi bear, mango, vanilla, crème brulee, sodas, and bubble gum.

Nurse Brock has recommended a resource for parents who are interested in speaking with their child about E-cigarettes. The tip sheet is attached to the newsletters of students in grades 5-8.



Students in first and second grades revise their writing to add details for their intended audience.

Preschool

Kendra Darrell

In the spirit of Valentines Day preschool has been establishing what traits make somebody a good friend and how we can be good friends within our classroom and school. We also are continuing to practice counting and number recognition. We are diving into letter-sound correspondence by brainstorming things that begin with a particular letter. We will be making a class book of these when we are finished. We practice writing our names daily, we are working on our first and last names as well as the names of our classmates.

Kindergarten

Marie Langmaid

Math : We are beginning a new math unit on number pairs and addition and subtraction to 10. For the next two weeks, the students will be composing and decomposing numbers within 8 using actions, objects, drawings, arrays, and number bonds.

Phonics and Reading: Reading and writing contractions is an area of new learning beginning this week, and work with short vowels continues.

Writing: As a group, the students wrote a poem titled Mittens that you will find displayed in the hallway above their coat hooks along with some paper mittens they decorated.

Science - Forces and Motions: during the next two weeks, the focus will be on creating their own balls out of a variety of materials and experimenting with them and building ramps and roadways.

Grades 1 & 2

Randi Collins

Reading: Students are working on their sight words. Every day students are doing Daily 5 where they either read to themselves, read to a partner, work on writing, word work, or are listening to books. Students meet in reading groups daily. For read aloud, we are reading books about the importance of kindness.

Writing: Students are learning about informational writing. They are writing to teach someone something they know a lot about. Right now they are picking an animal and teaching others what they know about that animal.

Math: 1st Grade Math - Students are collecting and organizing data.

2nd Grade Math - This week second graders will be working on adding numbers with 2 compositions. This is when they add multi digit numbers and they make a 10 in the ones place and make a 100 in the tens place. Towards the end of the week students will be doing this with 3 different numbers.

Social Studies: Students are learning about being a citizen and how they can help out in their own community.

Grades 3,4 & 5

Humanities - Tamara Thompson

3rd Grade:

Students will read *Moonshot*, an informational text about the Apollo 11 mission to the Moon. Students will preview the text and illustrations to gather observations and questions before listening to the text read aloud. Students will understand the importance of stating and maintaining the focus of a piece of writing. Students will also identify similarities and differences between the foci in opinion writing and expository writing and examine the introduction paragraph of an opinion essay before collaboratively and then independently writing their own introduction. Students will continue to read the text as they gain background information about the impetus to send astronauts to the Moon and examine in detail how Brian Floca uses sequence to present the events of the Apollo 11 mission in *Moonshot*.

4th & 5th Grade:

Students explore the new texts for this lesson arc. In this wonder stage, they complete a read/think/wonder chart about *Mountains*, as well as take notes on what they notice about the rich text descriptions in the *SAS Survival Handbook*, which will help them prepare to write their own vivid descriptions of a mountainous environment. This lesson arc helps to build schema for the novel study of Hatchet. Students will continue to read the text *Mountains* with the goal of identifying text features and discussing how the text is organized. They will also record descriptions of mountain ranges found in this first part of the book. Later on, students will analyze the same section of *Mountains* to figure out what makes it an engaging text for readers. Students will also work together to create a checklist for writing a description based on what they discover when they look at the text through "Writer's Glasses." Following that, students will read more of *Mountains* and identify the main idea and supporting details in a Boxes and Bullets Chart. They will also analyze a visual display exemplar to understand the requirements for creating their own display about mountains.

Grades 3, 4 & 5

Math & Science – Travis Hill

3-5 Math:

The fourth graders will be finishing up a Geometry module. They have recently learned the types of angles as well as how to measure and draw angles. They will move on to adding and subtracting to solve missing angle problems. Then the unit finishes up with symmetry concepts.

The third graders are continuing a unit on multiplication and division. They are learning to use parentheses to show which parts of an expression to solve first. They are also starting to use letters within equations to represent unknown values. These expressions then help them to solve word problems as well as solidify their understanding of the connection between multiplication and division.

The fifth grade is also working on Geometry concepts. They are learning about quadrilaterals. These include trapezoids, parallelograms, and rhombuses. During their explorations, they will investigate attributes such as side lengths, amount of parallel pairs, and angles.

Grades 6, 7 & 8

Math & Science - Tammy Russell

6th grade STEM:

Students will continue to apply literacy standards as they write and speak about their new understandings of the circulatory system in STEM class. Students conducted an inquiry every day based on their own human body circulatory system and used the evidence collected to make claims, justified by research. Students will research a disease or health career of their choice for the final week of this unit. They will share their new learning in a Powerpoint.

Grades 6, 7 & 8

Math & Science - Tammy Russell

6th grade tutorial:

Students are working on geometry extensions with Mr. Benoit or geometry hands-on/minds-on applications of algebra with Ms. Russell based on STAR results and teacher-generated assessments.

7th grade mathematics:

Students are in lesson 6 in their new Module 5, probability. Students are engaging with hands on/minds on investigations collecting and analyzing data. Students are working with percentages in math tutorial and connecting their data to fractions and decimals.

8th grade mathematics:

Students will demonstrate their slope-intercept understandings on an assessment. The next unit will be based around functions and real life data collection and analysis as we look at linear and nonlinear functions and their impact and connection to our everyday life. Students are applying their mathematics skills to creation of bridges for the Lyndon Institute Bridge building challenge.

Grades 6, 7 & 8

Humanities - David Irwin

6th Grade Humanities:

Students have just finished reading *Ramayana: Divine Loophole* while exploring the question, "What is the significance and power of the hero's journey?" We have begun exploring the three common "phases" of Hero's Journey. Students have also examined plot structure and sequence in Ramayana and applied what they learned to practice their own narrative writing by writing an original scene for Ramayana.

7th & 8th Grade Humanities:

Students are working towards answering the essential question, "How did World War II affect individuals?" We begin answering this question with reading the novel, *Code Talker*, an historical fiction account of a young Navajo who becomes a code talker with the U.S. Marines in the Pacific theater of WWII. Students practiced taking note of main characters, character traits, plot, and setting. We also have begun learning about Navajo culture and the experience of Navajo children in U.S. mission schools.

7th & 8th Grade Global Citizenship:

Students have begun an inquiry into the causes, proliferation, and impact of The Black Death in Asia and Europe during the mid 1300s. Students examined medieval trade routes and compared those routes with the spread of the plague. We have also been evaluating and deciphering primary source documents written by people who lived during the time of the Plague! This inquiry will include students gaining skills in examining primary and secondary sources, translating data into an infographic, scripting a mock newscast, and a developing a public service announcement.

Please visit the school website: walden.ccsuvt.net

Thank you for your continued support of your children's education.



The Walden School community
filled winter vacation. Winter vaca-
look forward to seeing students on

wishes everyone a safe, healthy, and fun-
tion is from February 25 - March 5. We
March 6, 2019, when they return to campus.