

Good morning!

This week, we continued studying the events leading to the American Revolution, including the 7 Years War. Students looked and made political cartoons as well as learning about various taxes that were imposed by the British. In science, we studied mollusks and different types of arthropods. Students came up with food chain examples and researched different countries and the insects they eat. Next week, we will look at echinoderms. I am hopeful the starfish I ordered will arrive in time for us to dissect it during this unit.

We are wrapping up our novels in language arts. I believe the next books we will be reading will be *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett and *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury. If you have any thoughts or questions about either novel, please let me know. We will be studying poetry by T.S. Eliot next week. I have a small piece of *The Wasteland* that we will start with, followed by some of his works from *Cats*. I think students will enjoy his work.

We are continuing with our Go Math. I am trying to encourage students to complete their math at school, so they can ask if they have any questions. If something comes home and you aren't sure what exactly the Go Math book is asking, don't hesitate to ask me. I know sometimes the wording of the problems is somewhat unclear!

In our government class, we reviewed a brief history of Illinois. Next week, we will continue talking about elected officials. I am, in part, using resources from a website that has a section on student learning. The link is http://illinoiscourts.gov/Kids/IL_Govt/default.asp, if you are interested in checking it out.

Our guest today was Annie. She helped us make our Outsider's Chocolate Cake. She also discussed yeast bread starters and is going to bring one into the classroom, so we can check it out.

I have noticed that we tend to keep a lot of our classwork at school. Our math books generally stay in the classroom, along with language arts and science work. In order to keep parents informed, I am thinking about sending home a weekly update on grades. I will take a look at a

format I can use that won't be too excessive and will get something together this week. I think it will help you stay on top of your student's progress.

As always, if you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Heather