

Good afternoon!

Last week, we continued studying the events before and during the American Revolution, including the Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights. We will look at the Constitution more closely this week. This section in social studies is dove-tailing nicely with what we are learning in government. Last week, we looked at the three branches of government in Illinois, specifically the executive branch. This week, we'll study the judicial branch. We will also take a look at the New Hampshire primary and the results.

In science, we started our unit on vertebrates and dissected perch. We will continue looking at more advanced vertebrates as we move through the lessons.

We are wrapping up *The Outsiders* and *James and the Giant Peach*. We played *Outsiders* bingo to help remember characters and settings in the book. The M&Ms we used as markers on the bingo cards were particularly well-received... I anticipate starting *Fahrenheit 451* next Monday.

We are continuing to march through daily GoMath and our grammar lessons on Mondays and Wednesdays. I am working on the Poet of the Week this afternoon. Last week, we read the Oompah Loompah's 'songs' from *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*. I liked these because they were all written in a similar rhyme scheme and meter, so students were able to recognize both easily by Friday.

Our Friday guest was Kevin Hunsperger. Kevin brought swag from *Silkworm* and told students about his experiences as a morning newscaster at WSIL, as well as stories about his wrestling experiences and his career in marketing. Students found some fun videos from his broadcasting days and we enjoyed sharing them.

Keira brought in her YUM box; it's a box of snacks from another country, along with information about the country. It was so cool that I ordered a subscription for our class. I am expecting our box to arrive next week. We will report on what's inside!

We have noon dismissal on Friday, with childcare. The Valentines Dance is Friday night at 6:30. As always, if you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Heather