

Weekly Newsletter

Good afternoon! So far, I think things have gone very smoothly in our classroom! We spent our first full week working on social studies, science, language arts, poetry, art, and math. We have had no notable technical difficulties, and everyone has been active and engaged during our school days. I anticipate grammar textbooks will be delivered within the next week, so we will work grammar into our schedule in the near future.

In social studies, we began our Ancient History studies with learning about mapmaking and how different cultures and societies work together. I skipped ahead to Chapter 4 because we were going over a lot of the same material in our science and social studies' books. We are now learning about ancient civilizations. I think students were amazed when we learned about Lucy and the fact that her head was the size of a baseball and she was 3 ½ feet tall.

In science, our Earth Science book has focused on types of maps. We did an activity where students downloaded a flat two-dimensional picture to cut out and form into a globe. It was interesting to see how intricately it needed to be shaped to make a proper sphere. The purpose was to illustrate the difficulty mapmakers have when they have to adapt three-dimensional objects into a map.

In language arts, we are reading *Wednesday Wars*. The setting reminds me of the tv show *The Wonder Years*. We watched a short trailer for *The Wonder Years* to get a better understanding of how society looked and acted during that time in history. I am very interested to see how the character development continues. I will be tying in themes from the book with short research projects. As an example, today's assignment referenced a "flower child." I had students research what a flower child was and they wrote a paragraph about their findings. I look forward to seeing what they wrote!

In art, we studied Pablo Picasso. Today, students are working on paper mache Picasso-like sculptures. We will get them painted this afternoon. I was happy to see nearly everyone was working outside!

In math, everyone is working well through their respective GoMath texts. Thom has spent an appreciable amount of time setting us up online with GoMath. The online version allows access to textbooks and videos that supplement the material. We are working on getting everyone set up with the online version. If you have any questions, please let us know!

I am also happy to report we have begun receiving our Scholastic magazines. Today we will be going over the Scope literary magazine. We will also be using the monthly Scholastic Art magazine and the weekly Scholastic Newsletter. We review them on Friday mornings.

Next Friday, we will be making terrariums via Zoom with Connie and Bill Adams from the Science Center. Connie and I came up with a list of general materials and I will send that out this weekend. Connie and Bill will lead us through the set-up. Some of the more specific things I will pick up and drop off to students next week. I talked to Connie about the possibility of having her guest with us once a month, leading us in projects. I think this is going to work out, so we will set up a regular schedule. Connie will organize projects and any unique items we need will be provided to students.

I have attached a flyer for a collection being taken up by Wright Way. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.