

Good evening!

Last week in science, we continued learning about different types of rocks. We studied igneous and sedimentary rocks, not only how they are identified, but their origin. This week, we will continue working through chapter 4, studying rocks from reefs, metamorphic rock, and the rock cycle. We will complete the chapter review by the end of the week. Chapter 5 discusses Plate Tectonics. On Thursday, I dropped off pieces of fluorite that our guest gave students.

In social studies, we have been studying Mesopotamia and the earliest empires. We did several activities, including one where students practiced cuneiform writing on clay tablets. We also studied Hammurabi's Code and did an activity which discussed how criminal activities would be punished according to today's laws versus Hammurabi's Code. We will be finishing chapter 6 this week and will begin chapter 7, Ancient Egypt.

In language arts, we are roughly halfway through *The Wednesday Wars*. I have been incorporating facts and information about life during the 1960s, including stories about Vietnam, influential people during the decade, fashion, music, and how society generally functioned. This week, I am including lessons about music during the era. Our curriculum for the book has included a nice combination of grammar, vocabulary, and comprehension questions.

As always, we are working our way through GoMath. I am experimenting with the various materials available through the online GoMath website. Students are now submitting their assignments to me via Google Forms, which allows me to more accurately grade their homework.

We read through our latest Junior Scholastic magazine on Friday. Stories included a comparison of Donald Trump and Joe Biden, recent protests in the U.S., and an interesting debate on whether voting should be mandatory in the United States. Students had interesting and well-thought out opinions on both sides of the argument. I am hopeful that we will receive our Scholastic Art magazine this week. We have started to receive the literary magazine, *Scholastic Scope*, which is a monthly magazine.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Have a great week!

Heather