

Good evening!

This week in social studies, we finished our chapter on Ancient Asia. We are also starting something new on Friday. Because we are moving so quickly through our social studies text, I am experimenting with having students find a current event and doing a short research 'report' on the event. It can involve anything currently going on in the news. My hope is that it helps students stay current on what is happening in the world, along with encouraging their writing skills. I will have them present their reports on Friday afternoons and I will be grading their research as well as their writing and grammar. I would like to segue this into how to properly cite sources and use quotations from the text as well. Next week, we will begin studying Ancient China in the textbook.

In science, we have finished our chapter on earthquakes. We will start a project on how to build an earthquake-proof structure. Students will need to plan and 'purchase' the materials they want to use. I will provide the materials. We will likely need some parental assistance with the 'earthquake,' especially since an egg will be involved. I will keep you updated on this. Construction will begin Monday morning and if we complete construction in the morning, we can plan to test them on Monday afternoon. Our next chapter is on volcanoes and plate tectonics.

In language arts, we are wrapping up Wednesday Wars. We will be completing some projects next week reviewing and discussing the book. The following week, we will be looking at Edgar Allan Poe. If you have any suggestions, concerns, or questions about this, please let me know.

In grammar this week, we covered concrete, abstract, and collective nouns and helping verbs. I was very happy with how well everyone did with this lesson. Next week, we will look at Lesson 10, Singular, Plural, Compound, Possessive Nouns, and Lesson 11, Future Tense.

In next week's art class, we will complete our earthquake-proof houses. Throughout the week, we will be looking at various architects and their styles. On Friday, we will work on a project for our Secret Buddies.

In math, 5th Grade will be starting Chapter 2 in the GoMath text, 6th grade will be working on 'Starting Operations with Decimals', 7th Grade will begin "Sales tax and Computing Interest," and 8th Grade will be working on rational exponents and real numbers.

I am planning on having students decorate shirts as part of our Day of the Dead activities. Olivia has been working on designs and silk-screening and she has come up with a really cool design. One idea is tie-dyeing her shirts with ink or by tying and bleaching them. Please let me know if you have a preference. I will check with students on their shirt sizes.

Spirit Wear forms and Cookbook entries are due on October 16- Friday. Keri is looking for recipes for soups, salads, side-dishes, and breads. Please forward any recipes you

have in mind to Keri.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please let me know!

Heather