

Good morning!

This week in social studies, we began our chapter on Ancient China. There is a lot of material and information about many of the different realms throughout this period. We should finish the chapter next week, then we will work on several projects during the first week of November to review the differences and similarities of each dynasty. Our first current events' assignment was a success. Students chose varying topics and everyone put a good effort into researching and presenting their reports. This is definitely an activity we will put in our regular schedule.

In science, we completed the chapter on earthquakes. I believe we had a 100% survival rate on the eggs that were inside the earthquake-proof structures that students created. We also began chapter 7, which explores volcanoes. Students are presenting PowerPoint presentations on Friday (October 23) explaining active, dormant, and extinct volcanoes. We will have an activity with Connie Adams from the Science Center on Friday, October 30. We are still finalizing plans, but I think it is safe to say it will have a volcanic theme....

In language arts, we finished up *The Wednesday Wars*. Next week, we will be looking at short stories by Edgar Allan Poe.

In grammar this week, we completed Lesson 10, Singular, Plural, Compound, Possessive Nouns, and Lesson 11, Future Tense. I am going to review several of the concepts from Lesson 11 on Monday, particularly 'shall' vs. 'will,' and then we will start on Lesson 12, Capitalization: Sentence, Pronoun I, Poetry.

This week in art, on Friday, we are making cards for our secret buddies. I will make sure they are delivered to school in time for Halloween. In next week's art class, we will look at various forms of Chinese art, sculpture, and handwriting, including painting projects on Monday which reflect Chinese art and culture.

In math, 5th Grade is reviewing long division, 6th grade will be working on adding and subtracting decimals, 7th Grade will continue determining sales tax and computing interest, and 8th Grade will be

evaluating algebraic expressions.

I think we have narrowed down a design for Day of the Dead shirts. Olivia will get them put together, and students can decide if they want to tie dye or bleach dye them. These will be ready for students next week, along with supplies for our projects with Connie. Patrick gave me a great idea for Halloween: having each student put together some kind of goody, gift, or treat bag for classmates. I have no idea what anyone is planning for Halloween, so I love this idea and that it will give students a little something special despite Covid and restrictions we have in place. My plan is for each student to make a bag for each classmate. I will put something together as well. Next Friday is a half-day, so we are planning to have science with Connie in the morning, and then a movie (to be voted on). My bag will include some movie snacks. I will e-mail parents early in the week with more details and to finalize the treat bag/movie day snacks and event.

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

Heather