

Newsletter ending November 13, 2020

Good evening!

Last week in social studies, we finished up our chapter about the Ancient Israelites and began Chapter 11, The Ancient Greeks, by reading a story about Ulysses and the Cyclops. We are going to incorporate Greek mythology into the lesson plan because I think most of the students enjoy and are familiar with mythology. On Friday, students presented powerpoint presentations showing three of their favorite Greek myths, gods, or goddesses. We will continue working on this chapter this week.

In science, we began on Chapter 9, Erosion and Deposition. It's a little long, so we will complete this chapter just as we are going on Thanksgiving break. I will incorporate some additional materials, time permitting, to help enhance the lesson. The lessons we still have to cover include water erosion, forces of moving water, glaciers, waves, and wind.

In language arts, we are moving through our novel, Code Talker. We will continue reading the novel and answering comprehension questions. The chapters are short but pretty powerful. So far, our narrator, a six-year old Navajo boy, has been sent to a school to essentially 'unlearn' his Navajo heritage. We have read about how his name was changed and how students are being forced to forget their Navajo language. There have been some really great discussion points about identity, tradition, and pride in your heritage.

In grammar, we worked on Lessons 16 and 17, which cover the four principal parts of verbs and part one of simple prepositions. I had students write a story including at least two prepositions per sentence. I loved what they came up with, and I think it really helped them recognize prepositions and how often they appear in our sentences. This week, we are working on Simple Prepositions, Part 2 (Lesson 18), Lesson 19- Perfect Tenses, and Lesson 20- Capitalization.

In art, we completed a project on Aboriginal Art. Like last week's project, it involved the leaf concept. I think they turned out very well. This week,

we will be doing Navajo sand painting.

We read poetry by J.R.R. Tolkien, including Cat, the Bath Song, The Song of Aragorn, and Bilbo's Adventure Song. This week, we will be reading poetry by Laura Tohe.

In math, 5th Grade is working on estimating with two digit divisors, 6th grade is dividing decimals, 7th Grade is factoring expressions and applying properties to algebraic expressions, and 8th Grade is writing algebraic expressions.

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

Heather