



## WEEKLY RECAP

UPPER SCHOOL

8/26/19 - 8/29/19

## **GARDENING AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY**

MS. CAMILA, MS. SAVANNAH, MS. ANGELA, DR. J

Our first starts are almost ready to put in the ground! This week, we spent the morning time prepping our gardens and animals for the impending storm.

## **FLORIDA FOLKTALES**

MS. ANGELA, MS. SARA, MR. KRIS

*How can we, as story-tellers, create a folktale with animals native to Florida?*

The students continued to get lessons using the Barton Reading and Spelling Program which helps them develop better phonemic awareness. Phonemic awareness has been scientifically proven to improve reading and spelling skills.

The students also continued learning about the importance of folktales and the art of storytelling. They identified the beginning, middle and ending of stories during read-alongs. The importance of story details were discussed as well.

Groups conducted research to find a native Florida species that they will write their folktales about and made notes about their species' special characteristics. They will soon begin creating storyboards and writing their folktales.

## **EVOLUTION OF HUMAN CIVILIZATION: THE ANCIENT WORLD**

MS. SAVANNAH

*How can we, as historians or archeologists create a multimedia presentation, excavation sight or reenactment to inform the audience of life in ancient civilizations?*

The students continued working on their infographics and presentations on the Ancient Egyptian Civilization. Students discovered important events, important people, societal systems and societal beliefs within the main eras of the ancient Egyptians.

The students also continued to work through their research within their ancient civilization teams, and began their essay within small groups with Ms. Savannah.

## **CHOICE: CLEAN EATS**

MS. SAVANNAH

*How can we, as exploratory dieticians, recreate every day processed food into healthy, wholesome, recipes?*

This week, the students dove into what's really in their favorite processed foods, and discovered what the purpose of each ingredient is. They also looked into the nutritional information as it relates to the

five main nutritional elements (Carbohydrates, Proteins, Vitamins and Minerals, Fat and Water) that humans need to survive.

## **CHOICE: ARTIST STUDIO**

MS. DENISE

*How can we, as artists, develop our craft and build a body of work through consistent studio practice?*

This week, we delved into “Open Studio.” Open Studio is time where the students have to plan and create to their hearts desire. The more time students have to create on their own, the more they will fail, persevere, succeed, and develop self-discipline - all critical elements of the artistic process. This self-directed weekly practice is crucial to artists developing their voice and skill. During Open Studio, Ms. Denise holds “workshops” to help facilitate the learning of new artistic skills. The workshops are developed based on student interest and suggestions. Students have the option to join any workshop during the course, or continue on the creative pursuit that they already have their head, heart, and hands invested in for the day. This week’s workshops included how to use a sewing machine, how to draw humans, and how to make a sculpture (sculpture station and tools introduced).

## **SHOULD I STAY OR SHOULD I GO?**

MS. ANGELA

*How can we, as meteorologists, make sure people find safety when a natural disaster is coming?*

Hurricane Dorian made this week’s focus on plotting and predicting hurricanes truly relevant. Students were able to track the coordinates of Dorian’s movement using latitude and longitude which tied in heavily with our unit on number lines. We discussed how to be prepared for a hurricane as well as the ways in which hurricanes are formed. We also talked about the reasons people evacuate and where they should evacuate to. It was a very timely and popular lesson!

## **ROCKET MATH**

DR. J, MR. KRIS

*How can we, as Rocket Scientists, apply skills of Algebra and Geometry to design, create and calculate the height of bottle rockets launched in the sky?*

This week we used balloons as models to test the effect of variables such as pressure and friction on our upcoming bottle rocket launches. We also determined the average distance our balloon rockets traveled in three trials and the average time it took for our balloons to reach that distance. These measurements gave us the information needed to calculate the speed of our balloon rockets. Next week, we will modify our balloon models with wings and other features to test if we can increase the speed of our rockets or increase the distance traveled. We also continued to review foundational Math concepts and vocabulary in order to increase student comfort and fluency with Math facts and formulas.

## **MONEY MATTERS**

MS. ANGELA, MR. KRIS

*How can we, as engineers, design a building that uses quality materials but stays within a specified budget?*

Students continued using Khan Academy and hands-on centers to help them develop their understanding of number lines. We also discussed the ways in which income dictates your daily budget, and explored ways in which the cost of living in an area may decide whether you decide to relocate.

The skills focused on were reading number lines and re-mastering adding and subtracting large numbers with regrouping.

## **SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST**

DR. J

*How can we, as Scientists, gain a thoughtful understanding of the anatomy and physiology of human beings?*

Our Science discussions this week centered on the structure and function of the Skeletal System. We learned a number of interesting facts about the essential role that our bones play in the life cycle of humans. For example, we learned that a primary function of the skeletal system is to protect our vital organs from physical harm; we learned that our “Backbone is our Body Guard” (student quote!), protecting our spinal cord and parts of our nervous system from damage. We also discussed the role of bones and bone marrow in the production of blood cells. We created a Venn diagram of bones versus teeth to help us recognize that while teeth share some similar characteristics with bones, they are not bones. Two key features set teeth apart from bones; bones are “alive” and can repair/heal themselves while teeth can not, and, bones have a hollow core filled with a marrow matrix that is the site for blood cell production. The most obvious distinction however is that teeth are “external” while bones are internal.

Our wooden base platforms have been built and are ready for the first phase of construction our Human Body Models. Students will assemble their spinal column and skeletal system next week. If you have beads or other materials that you are willing to send in to school to help us represent bones, vertebrae, or other structures and organs, your donations will be greatly appreciated!

## **CHOICE: THE CONSTITUTION REVAMPED**

MS. SAVANNAH

This week, the students worked through the articles of the United States Constitution and worked together to discover their meaning and purpose! Students will use this knowledge to recreate the constitution, add amendments and create movie depicting them.

## **CHOICE: SELF-DIRECTED STUDENT DISCOVERIES**

DR. J

*How can we, as life-long learners, challenge ourselves to take charge of our own learning and follow our personal interests by developing a project from start to finish (including “soup to nuts”) that answers our own questions about the world around us?*

The energy in a room full of budding scientists is powerful! Enthusiasm for learning was off the charts as students were empowered to choose their own projects and choose to fly solo or partner with friends. Project topics and designs that are in development are incredibly exciting and deeply thoughtful. Students will become subject area experts and leaders on topics that range from dogs to rabbits, volcanoes, plants, and race cars to rockets to name a few. All students are eager to put their draft plans to action and begin experimentation over the next few weeks. The excitement is contagious! Check back next week for a few more details about these terrific self-directed student discoveries.

**NO SCHOOL FRIDAY, 8/30 DUE TO HURRICANE DORIAN**