

Upper Elementary Classroom Newsletter October 13, 2023

CALENDAR

10/13 ASM Spirit Day and Pizza Lunch

10/13 PACE Parent Coffee Meetup and Meeting 8:15 a.m. (American Room)

10/13 All-School Meeting 8:45 a.m. (American Room) Sixth Years' Spanish Class: Central American Artists

10/18 Parent to Parent Event
7:00 p.m. (Pike School)
Viewing: Screenagers Under
the Influence

10/20 All-School Meeting 8:45 a.m. (American Room)

10/20 Pizza Lunch

10/27 All-School Meeting 8:45 a.m. (American Room) River Otter Class: History of Language

10/27 Pizza Lunch

10/27 Halloween Fair 3:30 p.m. (American Room)

10/31 Halloween (no Enrichment classes)

11/3 ASM Spirit Day and Pizza Lunch

11/3 All-School Meeting 8:45 a.m. (American Room)

11/3 PACE Diwali Celebration 3:30 p.m. (American Room)

11/5 Open House 11 a.m.

Click here to view ASM's calendar!

Our Classroom





This week, students were hard at work sharing in exciting new learning opportunities. Even though the week was shortened due to Columbus Day, there were many special events such as picture day, student council speeches and elections, and Upper Elementary's "Natural History Museum" event. In addition to normal academic lessons, these events were a great opportunity for students to participate in building community.





There were many sweet moments of community this week, however a particular highlight was student council speeches. Each candidate shared exciting new ideas for our school such as charity programs, a school newspaper and student run clubs. Each student also spoke to their strengths as a leader and representative for their classmates. It was endearing to see many of our students coming forward with a servant's heart for their community. Please continue reading for more highlights from this week.

Math

This week in 4th grade math, students continued to solidify their practice with estimates and rounding for multi-digit multiplication problems. Students also completed their posters which included a scale model of a giant stack of palm trees along with three different solutions for calculating the size of the stack.

This week in fifth grade math class, students continued to practice with the decimal checkerboard. They also spent time working on writing basic algebraic equations for multi-digit multiplication word problems. Students also learned to measure and draw reflex angles.

Sixth grade math students have expanded their skills to include dividing with mixed numbers and solving multistep problems with both fractions and decimals. In Geometry, the 6th graders learned about the differences between congruence, similarity, and equivalence.





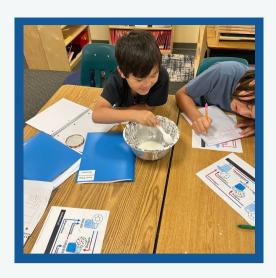
Language

In fourth grade writing class this week, students wrote each individual component of their explanatory essays. They found great pride in putting together their background information, lead and thesis sentence to form a polished introduction. The fifth years finished and presented their "Pet Essays", a writing project where they integrate the descriptive writing techniques into their paper about a favorite pet, animal, an imaginary animal of their own design. Now they are preparing for their next big writing project; an opinion piece about a book, movie, trip, event, or meal that was truly unforgettable. Sixth years learned about proverbs and spent time interpreting them. They also participated in a lesson on thesis writing. In grammar, they have continued their study of phrases, revising their gerund raps as we continue our study of infinitives.

Cultural and History

In cultural class this week, fourth and fifth years set-up and shared their timeline of life unit project. They also learned about cladograms, which are used to depict physiological differences between species. As cultural class continues, they will learn to track the evolution of humans. In 6th Grade History this week, students did a deep dive into Native American history and culture and they have been strengthening their note taking skills.





Science

This week students began their exploration of the changing phases of matter. We began to build a deeper understanding of solids, liquids, and gases, their properties, and the difference between physical and chemical changes. Students brought in matter they suspected weren't solids, liquids, or gasses and we conducted experimental observations to explore non-Newtonian matters like oobleck. In STEM we learned about conducting surveys, data collection, and graphic representations of data on everything from our feet arches to our favorite pizza toppings. Next week, students will continue to deepen their understanding of matter and begin to expand our knowledge of taxonomy by exploring the the classification and function of plants.

Looking Ahead...

We are still looking for one more room parent from the River Otter classroom.

The first book report was sent home this week. Students should be working on a plan to complete this project by the due date of November 15.

