

## CALENDAR

- 3/1 PACE Parent Coffee Meetup and Meeting 8:15 - 8:45 a.m. American Room
- 3/1 All-School Meeting 8:45 a.m. Founders' Day Award Announcement
- 3/1 ASM Spirit Day Pizza Lunch Women's History Month Begins
- 3/7 Pizza Lunch Science Fair 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- 3/8 No School Professional Development Day (Childcare Fun Day Offered)
- 3/15 All-School Meeting 8:45 a.m. Pizza Lunch
- 3/22 All-School Meeting 8:45 a.m. Pizza Lunch
- 3/29 All-School Meeting 8:45 a.m. Pizza Lunch

<u>Click here to view</u> <u>ASM's calendar!</u> Upper Elementary Classroom Newsletter March 1, 2024

# Our Classroom





Thank you to all who attended the ASM auction and supported our community. The peace poles, reflecting unity and diversity through our students' heritages, were a testament to their creativity and collaboration. Your presence and contributions not only made this event a success but also strengthened our sense of belonging and solidarity. We are truly grateful for your support.



Students finished up their hard work in STEM class designing and testing their grabbing devices. We have celebrated a lot of birthdays this past month, including Dr. Sisk's who the students surprised with a birthday song in the above picture. Even in the cold weather, we've all have found ways to keep the classroom a warm and inviting place to learn.

With winter weather upon us, please help your student remember to bring in an appropriate jacket and winter gear. We go outside for recess as long as the temperature with wind chill is above 20 degrees. When it starts to snow, students will be required to wear snow pants and boots to play in the field and other non-plowed areas.

### Cultural and History

Fourth and fifth year students have been immersed in the exploration of topographic maps, engaging in various activities to deepen their understanding of elevation information and geographical features. Through centers and task cards, students have honed their skills in deciphering contour lines, using cardinal directions, and interpreting elevation data on a topographic map. They are also expanding their vocabulary and comprehension of geography through nomenclature cards that match terms with descriptions and images. As a culminating project, students are researching an area of their choice to analyze its elevation levels and will be applying their knowledge to create a personalized topographic 3D model next week.

Sixth year students are learning about the geography of Asia. They are studying the various countries and gaining a cultural perspective on the differences in each country. Coming up, they will be making a travel brochure on a country they would like to visit.







During literature circle, fourth-year students have finished reading "Maroo of the Winter Caves" and are now working on a hands-on project where they act as museum curators. They are using their knowledge from the text to design an exhibit for children that showcases the tools, shelters, clothing, beliefs, and values of the Stone Age era. Meanwhile, fifth-year students are actively participating in discussions around the book "Lions of Little Rock," exploring the themes and characters in-depth. Students engaged in a vocabulary bingo exercise to review the major concepts from the chapters they have read so far. Additionally, they have completed writing exercises to enhance their understanding and connection with the text, such as imagining themselves as talk show hosts and creating interview questions for the characters. In 6th grade literature, we are finalizing our civil rights research papers as we move on to our new book, The Alchemist. The book explores universal themes and choices, including duty versus passion as well as love and loss. A classic in the genre of magical realism, the book provides a refreshingly optimistic and non-Western perspective. The unit will help students develop close reading and analytical skills. The personal nature of the narrative will also help student develop and improve their own narrative writing abilities.

As students wrap up their creative narratives this week, they are showcasing their dedication and hard work in the editing and revising process. Each student has put in considerable effort to refine their writing, resulting in beautifully crafted pieces that truly reflect their unique personalities and passions. Through this creative writing experience, students have honed their storytelling skills and embraced their individual voices in their narratives.

## Math

In math, the fourth years In math, we are wrapping up our division unit and preparing for our next unit solving multi-stage equations and word problems. In geometry, after spending some time learning how to calculate the surface area of 3-d shapes comprised of triangles, rectangles, and squares, we have begun learning the volume formulas for calculating cubes, rectangles, and pyramids using our Montesorri shelf materials to visualize the formulas. In class, fifth year students are currently practicing multiplying fractions by a whole number after completing their study of adding and subtracting mixed numbers. They are working on mastering this new concept by laying out fraction insets in order to compose the product. Meanwhile, sixth year students are focusing on evaluating expressions that involve all four operations - addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. They are actively engaging in problemsolving tasks to deepen their understanding of mathematical concepts and improve their skills.





#### Science

This week in science, students presented their amphibian posters for one of three amphibian orders. For our study of reptiles, after completing our reptile research cheat sheets, we played a team game to review the orders and characteristics of our reptile species in preparation for our unit review test of amphibians and reptiles. Next week, we will begin our new unit on bird species.

#### Looking Ahead

Looking forward, mark your calendars for Thursday, March 7th from 6:00-7:00 pm for our upcoming science fair. The event will be held in the American Room and Middle School, showcasing the hard work and dedication of our students throughout the scientific inquiry process. From developing hypotheses to conducting experiments, analyzing data, and drawing conclusions, students have poured their efforts into their projects. We invite all members of the community to join us at this exciting event to celebrate the accomplishments of our budding scientists. It will be a fantastic opportunity to witness their creativity, critical thinking, and scientific discoveries on display.

