

Upper Elementary Classroom Newsletter April 5, 2024

CALENDAR

- 4/5 Movie Night
 Sponsored by PACE
 6:00 p.m.
- 4/8 Solar Eclipse!
- 4/9-11 Scholastic Book Fair American Room
- 4/12 All-School Meeting 8:45 a.m. (American Room) Pizza Lunch
- 4/15-19 No School April Break
- 4/22-26 Red Gate Farm Trip
- 4/26 All-School Meeting 8:45 a.m. (American Room) Pizza Lunch
- 4/26 Earth Day Celebration Sponsored by PACE 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Our Classroom





We said goodbye to Mrs. Slaby as she prepares for her maternity leave and to welcome "baby snowflake" to the Slaby family. A special thanks to all those who helped co-ordinate some thoughtful parting gifts. Spanish is now in the capable hands of Miss Maria Droguett Ovando. We are very excited to be welcoming her to UE!





In STEM, sixth year students continued building and testing their "Extractinators" to help collect microplastics from a tub of water. In collaboration with the middle school students, they learned how to build a circuit correctly to add motors to their prototypes and will continue work on this next week as well before they give a final presentation.

Click here to view
ASM's calendar!

As the weather starts to warm up and our outdoor areas transition from hard ground to spring mud, it is especially important that students have shoes that are specifically designated as Indoor Shoes. Please check to make sure that your student has both shoes for playing outside and shoes for wearing in the classroom.

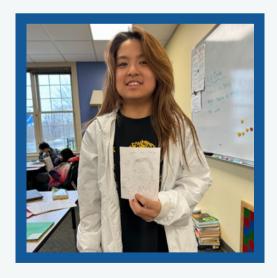
Math

This week in fourth-year math, we presented our latest math projects. Students used different materials to visualize the scale and proportion of giant redwood trees and the relationship between temperature and the number of alligator egg hatchlings. This coincided with our spiral review of comparative fractions as well as our study of area and volume.

The fifth year students are currently working on line plots and solving word problems using data. They are learning how to construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others when analyzing different data sets. Through creating line plots, they are able to display measurements in fractions of a unit and use operations on fractions to solve problems presented in the data.

The sixth year students are focusing on creating tables of equivalent ratios and using ratio and rate reasoning to solve both real-world and mathematical problems. They are also learning how to convert measurement units using ratio reasoning and are mastering the calculation of the area of parallelograms, trapezoids, and triangles.





Language

In 4th year grammar, students are learning about double negatives. By understanding how double negatives cancel each other out to create a positive statement, students are improving their comprehension of grammar and language. In 5th year grammar, students are reviewing the distinction between subject and object pronouns as well as subject verb agreement.

This week in fifth grade writing, students have moved from completing their research for their informational essays to organizing their points, writing their introductions, and constructing their body paragraphs. Fourth and sixth year students are also constructing their body paragraphs for their informative writing and will begin their conclusions next week. In 6th year grammar, we completed some review of the different types of sentences and continued our exploration of different types of literal and figurative language, including personification and connotation.

Fourth year students have begun their new Literature Circle text, I Can Make this Promise. Fifth year students are coming to end end of their reading of Lions of Little Rock and have been working on various comprehension projects to aid in their understanding of Civil Rights figures. Sixth year students have completed the first act of the Alchemist, added detail to their dialectal journal entries, and gained a deeper understanding of the roles of metaphor and personification in the process. They are preparing to begin their first big book project, making a children's book version of the first part of the story to help simplify some of the complex ideas and narratives in the book.

History and Geography

Fouth and fifth year students have finished studyign ancient people of Europe up until the movement of Neolithic people from Asia and the Middle East. Students are creating project rubrics and guidelines in order to display their understanding of these learned concepts in the form of a song, skit, model, etc. In their geography studies, fourth and fifth year students are learning about map projections. They have explored the differences between a Peters projection and a Mercator map, including how each projection distorts the size and shape of geographic features differently. Building on this knowledge, students will be creating their own map projection using a light source. By engaging in this activity, students are gaining a deeper understanding of the complexities of representing a three-dimensional globe on a two-dimensional map, as well as the impact that different projections can have on our perception of the world.

The sixth year students have started learning about the Boston Tea Party and exploring the theme of "What is the Big Deal with Taxes?" This historical event provides a rich context for students to understand the complexities of taxation and the role it played in shaping American history.





Science

This week in biology we finished up our unit on birds by doing a scavenger hunt for bird facts using the posters and comics we made of different bird species. We will conclude the biology unit studying the orders of mammal. We also began our new chemistry unit on atoms and molecules, learning about the parts of atom and constructing our own atom models. Friday we will learn more about the periodic table of elements, including its history and how to read it.

Looking ahead

Next week, the school will be hosting a Scholastic book fair. On the upcoming Tuesday, students will have the opportunity to preview the books that will be available for purchase. This preview session will allow students to browse and select books they may wish to buy. Following the preview, students will have two more chances to visit the book fair to make their purchases.

If anyone would like to have a catalogue of the books available at the fair, they are invited to stop by the front desk to pick one up. The Scholastic book fair is a great opportunity for students to explore new books and cultivate their love for reading.

