

Upper Elementary Classroom Newsletter November 22, 2024

CALENDAR

11/26 Pizza Lunch

11/27-29 School Closed: Thanksgiving Break

12/4 Head of School Coffee with Lower Elementary Parents 8:15 -9:15 a.m.

12/5 Portrait Retake Day and Sibling Portraits

12/6 PACE Parent Coffee Meetup and Meeting 8:30 - 8:45 a.m. All-School Meeting 8:45 a.m ASM Spirit Day Pizza Lunch

12/10 ASM Board of Directors'
Open House 6:30 - 8:00 p.m
Casey Room

12/13 Pizza Lunch
Children's House Winter
Concert 9:00 - 9:45 a.m.
Lower and Upper Elementary
Winter Concert 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

12/19 Pizza Lunch

12/20 School Closed: Professional Development Day (Childcard Fun Day Available)

12/23 - 1/1 Winter Break!

Click here to see the full ASM calendar!

Our Classroom...





Last Friday, students participated in a field trip to the Harvard Museum of Natural History, where they learned about human origins. They examined various bones from different hominin species to determine whether they were bipedal or quadrupedal, their diet, and their cranial capacity using evidence and clues.





The Upper Elementary students had their first book reports due this past Wednesday. Students took turns presenting their historical nonfiction book reports to their peers by standing in front of the group, working on skills such as eye contact, clarity, pace, posture, and overall professionalism.

Math

Fourth- and fifth-year students have been working on a number of math activities and concepts, including new methods for multi-digit division, such as partial quotients, in addition to long division and estimation techniques. Some students are finishing up their space posters, applying their knowledge of exponents to show the distances of different planets from the sun in both standard and exponential forms.

In sixth grade, some students practiced determining the greatest common factor (GCF) and the least common multiple (LCM) of two whole numbers using a pegboard and constructing factor trees. Other students focused on practicing the order of operations, identifying terms, constants, and coefficients in algebraic expressions. They also used substitution to evaluate these expressions.



Cultural

In History class, fourth and fifth-year students are learning about the Bronze and Iron Ages, including the process of making tools with metal and other important inventions from these periods. Sixth-year students have completed presentations on various tax acts and other key historical events leading to the American Revolution.

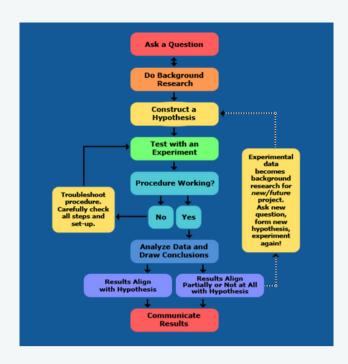
In science class, students have reflected on how simple machines make our lives easier. They recently learned about the three classes of levers, conducted multiple experiments, collected data, and analyzed their results. Working with partners, they explored how the position of the fulcrum affects the ease of lifting a load.

Language

In the fourth and fifth-year Literature Circle, students further analyzed "The Boy in the Painted Cave" while participating in a cave painting project to enhance their studies. This hands-on activity promotes creativity and deepens their understanding of the text's themes and historical context. In the sixth-year Literature Circle, students are finishing up Colonization and The Wampanoag and preparing for their next book, Refugee. Students will vote to choose their final projects for the book next week when we complete the final chapter.

In fourth and fifth year writing, students finalized their explanatory writing pieces by adding conclusions, revising, peer editing, and editing their own work before typing everything into a Google Doc. They will decide as a group how they will publish their work next week. In sixth year writing, students are finishing their explanatory pieces by adding their conclusions and editing their final drafts.





STEM

The fourth- and fifth-year students participated in an "Hour of Code" during a STEM class between units. They chose an activity and followed the prompts to create their own code. Additionally, students were introduced to the scientific method as the science fair process is about to begin! We reviewed the different types of variables and discussed examples of various science fair experiments.

During STEM class, sixth-year students met with Mrs. Records to decide on their topics. Their science fair experiments must be measurable, meaning they need to collect data through multiple trials. The students identified their independent, dependent, and control variables, which helped them formulate a problem statement for their projects.

Click here for more classroom photos!

Looking Ahead...

Practical Life activities have provided students with an enjoyable opportunity to practice food preparation skills. After Thanksgiving Break, the next group snack will feature a nut-free trail mix, allowing students to collaborate and create something delicious and safe for everyone.

Additionally, students will be working together on an exciting project to design and build mud kitchens, which will serve as the Upper Elementary Founders Day auction item. This hands-on experience will not only enhance their collaborative skills but also foster creativity and community spirit.

