



SPARKNotes

Students *Pursuing Advanced Reasoning & Knowledge*

September 23, 2022

From the Director

We had our first Sparkles Buddy Day on Wednesday! The older students were paired with a younger student and they ate lunch together, played outside at recess, and did a Get-to-know-you activity.



Calendar

September 27 - Writers Club 3:00-4:00 p.m.

October 4 - Yearbook Staff Meeting 3:00-4:00 p.m.

October 26 - Field Trip to the Edison/Ford Estates & Estero 1904 Schoolhouse

November 9 - Mimi's Manners Luncheon 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

November 22-24 Thanksgiving Break, no classes

December 14 - Student Presentations 1:00-2:30 p.m.

December 16-January 3 Winter Break

Lesson Summaries

Algebra

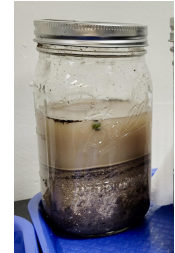
This week's skills: Properties of Numbers, combining like terms to simplify algebraic equations, probability, and Chapter 2 Review for the test next week.

Math

This week's skills: Divisibility Rules, Prime Factorization, Greatest Common Factor (GCF) to simplify fractions, and Least Common Multiple (LCM) to find a common denominator.

Science

This was the last week of our first unit on Weathering and Erosion. We discussed the different layers of soil so each student brought in a cup of dirt from their house and we tested its properties using water and borax. As you can see from the photo on the right, the layers of humus, clay, silt, and sand can be seen. This taught the students that soil has different compositions so various plants will grow in the soil that best suits its needs. Some students found it fascinating to find dead worms, leaves, seashells, and other organic materials in the humus. Tuesday is our first unit test, so make sure the students study this weekend!



Language Arts Blue

The students are working on the last two paragraphs of their essay on *The Giver*. I'm having them take their time so that they learn proper formatting, use the editing tools on Google docs, and learn how to write in an academic voice for expository essays. We had deep discussions on the underlying themes found in the story and then came up with topics for debate. Next week, we will learn how to prepare arguments for debate using different styles of persuasion.

Language Arts Green

The students are working on adding two more paragraphs to their essay on *Anne of Green Gables*. We are going slow so that they learn how to format and edit on Google docs. They are learning so much and are enjoying writing more because they don't have to do it by hand. We began watching the first half of *Anne of Green Gables* on Gazebo TV. We all agreed that the actress for Anne was perfectly cast. Here is a link to order the film; it's a great family show:

<https://www.gazebotv.com/packages/anne-of-green-gables/videos/anne-of-green-gables>

Social Studies

This entire week was spent on the students presenting their state projects. We added final touches on Tuesday and then presented on Wednesday and Thursday. I am very proud of the students for the time and care they put into their presentations, which was evident as they stood in front of their classmates. A few students went “above and beyond” the requirements, which set a high bar for future presentations. For example, Leo and Alexis added animations, gifs, and links to videos on their Google Slides. The class spontaneously clapped for one another.

