

Peek at the Week

12/19–12/21

From the classrooms of Ms. Friedman & Mrs. Walls

Announcements: Even though the snow is gone, we are asking students to bring full gear on hike days. It can be soggy and icy out on the trails and we want students to stay warm and dry. On Wednesday next week (12/21) we are having our annual Winter Festival. Students will spend the afternoon doing different activities that will most likely get them dirty. They need to have all of their gear for the festival (coat, snow pants, hat, gloves, boots).

STEM

So Far: 7th grade students used this past week to become experts with insects. We talked in detail about common structures found in insects as well as why certain insects have adapted in different ways. We wrapped up the week with a live cockroach observation—most students were too afraid to pick them up! In math, we discussed how data can convey different messages depending how it is displayed. They also began to work with the idea of what similar shapes look like.

Coming Up: During our quick, three day week, students will continue developing ideas about what makes a shape similar to another one using mathematical rules. In science, they will move onto the topic of Kingdoms of species and complete an experiment to observe bacteria and fungi development.

HUMANITIES

So Far: This week was a return to skill building with an emphasis on practicing typing. Most students need to improve their speed and accuracy by about 10 to 20 words per minute. Encourage them to practice at home and to make sure they are typing correctly. We also spent time this week returning to vocabulary building with Word Up, reflecting on HOTS and the hamburger paragraph, preparing books to read to Kindergarten, and working on learning short-age, surplus, monopoly, and competition in economics.

Coming Up: In the short week ahead we will take an economics quiz on supply and demand, wrap up Word Up Unit 6, explore some creative writing, and enjoy the season during our Winter Festival.

DEVELOPMENTAL DESIGNS TOOL OF THE WEEK

An important part of our daily Morning Meetings is the daily news. Students are expected to come in every morning and read the message waiting for them in the classroom. These daily news highlight everything from the day's schedule to important reminders about upcoming tests. The messages always conclude with some sort of daily question, ranging from the simple "What did you do this weekend?" to the more thought-provoking "What would you do if you won the lottery?" This helps establish a daily routine of getting started right away, give extra reminders to those students who may need them, and give students a chance to think ahead for what they will share during morning meeting. The daily news can also be a chance to review prior learning with the inclusion of vocabulary words, grammar, and concepts from previous lessons.