

Sacred Heart School **Steamsational** Classroom Newsletter 11/05/2021

Welcome to the 2nd edition of the SHS Steamsational Classroom Newsletter! We've been very busy in all classrooms this fall. Building, creating and of course - having lots of fun! Please enjoy reading below about our classroom happenings. If you have any questions or need to follow up with me on anything, please feel free to reach out through email at alantaigne@shshampton.org.



Students in kindergarten-2nd grade spent the beginning of October finishing up their zoo animal enclosures. I know a lot of students were looking forward to building more at home or playing with their habitats, so I hope those all made their way home to you. Grade 2 students also finished their research piece. Students were supposed to go home with their research packet and share at least 2 facts about their animal with families.

In addition to the zoo enclosure STEAM activity, Kindergarten students participated in a read aloud of the book, Creepy Carrots. After reading the story, we discussed simple shapes and ways to create fences. Students then completed a diagram of how they were going to create a fence out of real carrots and toothpicks around their own creepy carrots. After students built their structures, we counted sides and determined what kind of shape our fences were based on the number of sides of our shape. One student even created a fence that was a nonagon!

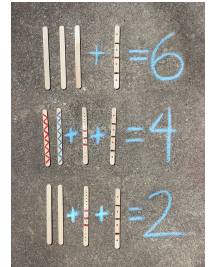


For November, we discussed how hundreds of years ago, Native American children played games with wooden sticks. Students spent time creating their own games out of craft sticks and beans. They also wrote their own set of directions on how to play. I hope that families were able to share a few rounds playing this traditional game. If a set of directions didn't make it home, you can play using the below set of rules:

You should have 4 sticks (each with one decorated side) and 20 beans

Each player takes a turn tossing the four sticks. Use the chart to the left to identify how many beans to collect.

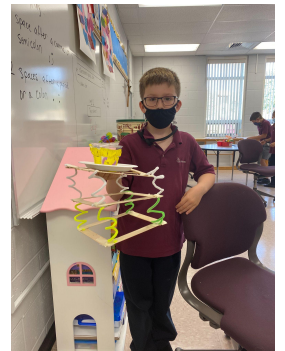
First player to 10 beans wins!



Grade 1 and 2 students participated in the Bonaparte Falls Apart read aloud. We then watched a PBS video about bones. We discussed how our bodies and skeletons are symmetrical and talked about other things in nature that exhibit symmetry. After our discussion, students created their own Bonaparte skeletons with Q-tips and drying clay. I was excited to see so many detailed examples of the human skeletal system!

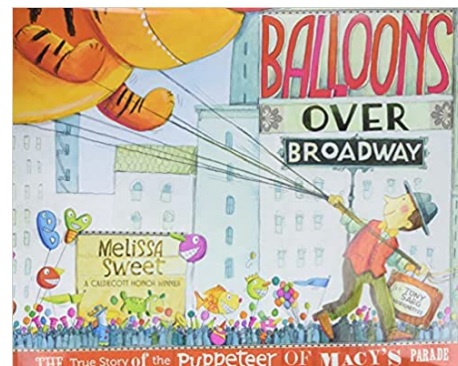
Last week we started our Thanksgiving STEAM project. We learned about the Pilgrims that settled in Massachusetts and about the Penobscot Native American tribe. We focused on the different types of structures that the Pilgrims and Penobscots lived in. During the next few weeks, 1st-3rd grade students will work with a partner to create their own models of either Pilgrim houses or Native American dwellings. **I will bring in supplies, but I also hope that families donate items. You do not have to go out and spend money. Small twigs from the yard and scrap fabric and twine will work great!**

Grades 3-5 spent 3 weeks in October learning about what it took NASA to successfully launch and land the Mars Perseverance Rover. We watched an exciting video about the descent and landing of the Perseverance onto Martian soil. Students then worked in teams to design and build their own version of a Mars Lander. Teams not only had to create their lander, but also had to figure out a way to keep their 'space dude/dudette' from bouncing out of their lander capsule. I was very impressed by the determination of so many of the groups. We had a lot of kids bring their landers home to improve and retest. One team told me they had a successful drop from over 10 ft. Wow!



Last week, students in grades 3 and 4 participated in the Balloons Over Broadway read aloud. This book tells the story of the puppeteer, Tony Sarg. What I admire most about Tony as a 'maker' was his curiosity for learning and zest for play. He also happens to be the inventor of the inspired helium balloons that became the trademark of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade! In the coming weeks leading up to Thanksgiving, students will work in teams to design their own floats fit for our own mini parade! All floats should be able to roll on wheels and be pulled by a string. I can't wait to see the creative thinking come to life. I hear rumblings of an Army themed float and many fall themed ones as well!

Note: I will have some supplies here at school, but I am also asking that families provide materials to contribute to their student's efforts. No need to go out and spend money. Construction paper, cardboard and any extra craft supplies are greatly appreciated!



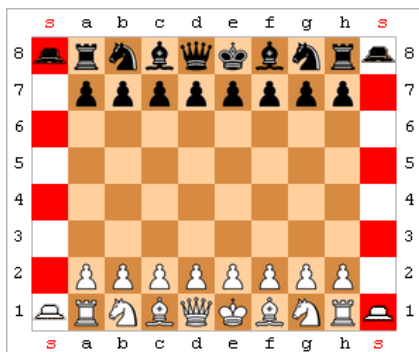
This is a reminder to junior high families that students will receive a letter grade in STEAM class. It is important that your student submits work on time. His/her grade should be an accurate reflection of the timely submission of assignments. If you receive an email from me stating that your child is missing work, please follow up with him/her to see why work might be missing. We spend a lot of time in class on projects, but some projects may need to be finished up at home. I do my best to make sure students are understanding content, but if your child needs some reteaching, I am happy to meet after school or Zoom at home. Feel free to reach out anytime if your child needs a little extra time and attention. It is important to me that each child feels successful.



Our grade 6 students finished up their Choose Your Own Adventure stories they created in Google Slides. Our students showcased some great talent with their storytelling and multimedia skills. This Friday, our 6th graders will finish their Pumpkin Catapult Lab project. Students worked on creating catapults that launched mini pumpkin candies. They collected the data and then launched different items to see how size and weight affected the launch distance. Students then turned that data into a bar graph they created in Google Sheets.

Grade 7 and 8 students finished their phototech project. Collectively, students did a great job melding the creative and technology pieces together. We are now working on Bloxels video game design and once again the students jumped right in! We are shooting for a

mid-December due date for the Bloxels project. I reminded the students that building a video game is like telling a story. All students received graphic organizers to help with the planning. I encouraged all students to really take the time to think through the beginning, rising action, climax, and end BEFORE they begin to build out their platform.



Looking ahead. I just became a certified Chess in Schools Instructor through a grant offered to NH educators. I am very excited to bring chess to our school and to create a culture of chess players! I plan on offering both an in class curriculum for grades 3-8 and an after school club that will be offered to students in grades 5-8. A flyer will be going home soon explaining the details of the after school program. I have a lot of interested students, so please register promptly. I anticipate that spots will fill up quickly.

Thank you SHS families for your continued partnership!