



AIG & Enrichment at Green Hope Elementary

Resource Classes, Enrichment, and Specials Overview

5th Grade AIG Reading

Students are participating in a project called "First-Person Biographies." They have selected a subject to read about based on their interests and connections. As they are reading, they have been asked to keep notes on words that they may be unfamiliar with or that they do not use often. They have also been asked to keep up with events in the subject's life that may have been "life-shaping."

Once they have selected the five most "life-shaping" moments from the biography they are going to combine their creative writing skills with details from the biography to create a first-person narrative of the chosen events. They will be using Voki and/or Kidblog to create an on-line diary of their subject's lives.

Students will begin working on their final drafts next week in the computer lab, so they need to make sure they have at least one (preferably 2-3) of their drafts completed. Please ask your child to share their progress with you. They each have a packet to help guide them through their project, so they should be able to show you how far along they are.

5th Grade Independent Study

Some 5th grade students have been chosen to participate in a 5th Grade Reading Enrichment Independent Study Project. This project is based around the theme "Who Am I?" Students have been encouraged to approach the topic in any way that they want as long as they bring it back around to research, learning, and sharing more information about their lives, their futures, their families or their pasts in an interesting and meaningful way.

There are a lot of creative ideas brewing, and at the end we will have a fair where students can share the work they have done.

The projects are due at the end of the 9 weeks. Your child should be aware of his/her due date.

At this point in the project, many of the students are working independently at home or in their classrooms, but I check in with them regularly and allow some class or computer time for them to work at school, as well. Remind your child to try to stay on target with their project check point goals in their planning booklet. (Independent Study Study Guide)

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Volunteer Opportunities:

- ☉ Odyssey of the Mind Coach
- ☉ Organizing a Challenge 24 Math Club
- ☉ Organizing a Chess Club
- ☉ Kids Into Thinking: Parents working with small groups in K-3 Classrooms

Contact me if you're interested in helping out!

Brain Boost

Brain Boost is a series of Higher-Order Thinking lessons that is being shared with all 4th and 5th grade students during their Specials time on days when they don't have Specials. It includes elements of the Mind-Up and Optimistic Classroom Program along with other hands-on activities that promote rigor, creative thinking, collaboration and problem-solving skills.



4th Grade Math AIG: Hands-On Equations

4th grade students are exploring algebraic concepts using the Hands-On Equations method. They are using manipulatives to explore simplifying like terms, adding and subtracting variables, keeping equations balanced, and discovering solutions to variables through subtracting like amounts on opposite sides of the equation. They will be completing a mini-project next week where they will show their understanding and mastery of Level I in Hands-On Equations through word problems and creating their own unique word problem that includes the skills they have been taught.

Jr. Great Books and 4th Grade Reading Enrichment

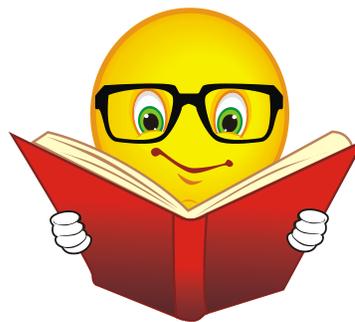
Currently, Ms. De Alberdi is working with students from 3 of the 6 4th grade classes for reading enrichment using a series called Jr. Great Books.

Jr. Great Books is a series that promotes independent and critical thinking and reading through high-interest short stories.

Each unit consists of an outstanding story and a series of interpretive activities. The students will be asked to read each story twice, accompanied by questions or observations that they make note of during reading.

Your children have reading time, through the Daily 5 -read to self, read to other in their literacy block, as well as the 20 minutes per day outside of school suggested by WCPSS on their language arts profiles cards.

Then students participate in what is called 'Shared Inquiry' and discuss, on a high level, the readers' questions and opinions related to the



Students are currently reading the story "Charles" by Shirley Jackson

initial readings. This is enrichment. This should be enjoyable. If missing class causes your child stress, please contact us as soon as possible. This is not meant to be a stressful activity but rather an opportunity for the students to push themselves and grow in their reading and understanding.

If you'd like to read along with your child, read online at:

4th Grade Reading AIG: The Caldecott Defense Project

The Caldecott Medal was named in honor of nineteenth-century English illustrator Randolph Caldecott. It is awarded annually by the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association, to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children.

This quarter, 4th Grade Reading AIG students will be exploring different Caldecott Award Winners

while working on comparing, contrasting, mood, theme, summarizing, medium, literary devices and critical stance essay writing.

The students will use their evaluation skills to argue why one book should have won over another.

Students have been given a rubric that explains their expectations and have received two parent letters thus far explaining their expectations. Please check your child's

Homework sheet to ensure that they are keeping up with their assignments because some students are still coming to class without their materials.



Third Grade Explorers

Third Graders are wrapping up their first round of whole class lessons with Ms. Alberdi in the Explorers Program, so some students will soon be pulled out into smaller groups to go into greater depth with critical and spatial thinking.

Please remember that being pulled out for the small group experience does not indicate whether a child will or will not qualify for AIG. Also, stu-



dents who are pulled out for one group may or may not be pulled out for another group. Group size is limited, so

students who may have shown some strength may not be pulled out for this round.

Pull-Out sessions will last several

weeks, and then the AIG team will go back into the whole classroom and begin a new unit on a different area of study.

Mailing List

If you did not receive this newsletter in your e-mail, please e-mail Ms. Drake, so you can be added to the mailing list!

5th Grade Math AIG: Mathematics Investigations

Students are working with Ms. De Alberdi this quarter for a unit centered around mathematical investigations.

They began the quarter with a statistical investigation based on the PCAI model. In this model, students P-Pose a question, C-Collect the data, A-Analyze the data, and I-Interpret the data.

Students are currently working on an investigation called "Egyptian Fractions." This unit extends students' intuitive sense of fractions including relative magnitude and decomposition.

The problem solving context of the activities provides opportunities to explore relationships between fractions, recognize patterns and practice adding and subtracting fractions.

When students begin noticing patterns that are present across number systems they can begin looking at numbers in a more abstract way, which in turn allows them to apply concepts to more complex

problems and situations.

The third investigation will involve algebra and creating an elaborated puzzle. They can build on the skills they were taught last year using the Hands-On Equations model for understanding algebra as a jump-start to furthering their algebraic reasoning skills.

All students are keeping portfolios of their work. They will be sent home



It's time to Investigate!

Kids Into Thinking Training Opportunity

There is a unique opportunity to get involved with furthering the education of the K-3 population through a program called K.I.T.S.

Ms. Alberdi is trying to get interested parent volunteers together who would be willing to learn about the K.I.T.S. program so that they can go into the K-3 classrooms and work with small groups on higher-level thinking activities that center around various

themes that pertain to the grade level's curriculum.

It is up to the classroom teacher and the parent volunteer to decide how the K.I.T.S program will be implemented into each classroom, but we cannot do it without volunteers.

If you are interested in learning about this program and how you can be a part of the educational enrichment of GHE's Littlest Learners.

The Spelling Bee Buzz

Thanks PTA's port, will be participating this year Scripp's National Spelling Bee.



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Grades 3-5 will be participating this year to determine who will represent our school in the county-wide spelling bee.

The spelling bee will start towards the end of the second nine weeks. Students in every class will be encouraged to participate in a class bee and the winner from each class bee will compete in our school-wide bee in December.

Spelling lists and more information will be sent home as it becomes available.

Challenge 24 Math Club

For the past two years, Green Hope Elementary has participating in a Challenge 24 Math Tournament against Weatherstone Elementary. Students gain practice using the Challenge 24 cards through weekly meetings of Math Club.

Currently, we have not had any parent interest in volunteering to sponsor the Math Club, which usually meets one day a week from 8:00-8:45 in Ms. Drake's room. Until we have a volunteer who is able to give his or her time to host this club, we will have to put the club on hold.

If you are interested in volunteering for this, please contact Ms. Drake as soon as possible because there are many students who are very eager to get started working on their speed and mental math, so we can represent Green Hope again this year in the tournament as strongly as we have in the past.



5th Grade Grammar Experiment

This year the CORE Curriculum encourages teaching grammar through the writing process, so Ms. Drake has been working with the 5th grade team to develop some lessons and activities that would reach students on all different levels.

Currently, she has provided a mini-lesson with hands-on practice that focuses on nouns, verbs and conjunctions. The students are encouraged to think about what types of sentences they are writing before deciding which conjunction they might need and whether or not they need to add

a comma to their conjunction.

Another very small group is working to help develop work samples for a Parts of Speech project that can be used with all students giving each student a chance to demonstrate their personal strengths and interests while demonstrating their understanding of the different parts of speech. Once the students have completed their work samples, they will be displayed on the AIG wiki for others to view and for teachers to use as examples in their classrooms.

If you are interested in learning

more about what is going on with the ABCs of Grammar Project, check it out on the wiki.

Students participating in the work samples development, please remember that your projects are due October 1.



A is for Apple

Odyssey of the Mind



Odyssey of the Mind is up and running. As of this week, there are officially 3 teams competing at Green Hope Elementary. Membership for two of the teams has not been finalized, but Ms. Drake will be using the parent requests in order of date received to fill in empty spaces.

Most importantly, we are still in need of two coaches. If you are interested in coaching there will be a

coaches training on October 6, 2012 at Salem Middle School in Apex from 8:00am until 12:40 pm. If you are on the fence about coaching, this is a great opportunity to learn more about Odyssey of the Mind and get ideas on how to organize and lead a team.

This year's tournament will be held on March 2, 2013 at Chapel Hill High School and Smith Middle School.

Please contact Ms. Drake as soon as

possible if you are interested in coaching because we want to get the teams started soon to maximize the work time available before competitions.

Ms. Hampton's Math Enrichment Group

Please remember your Enrichment projects (Going Green Renovations) are due on September 27, which is next week!

Ms. Drake will be meeting with you to go over your verbal responses.

5th Grade Math Enrichment

Many students are participating in Math Enrichment this year thanks to the time and scheduling flexibility provided by having two full-time AIG teachers at GHE.

Currently, students who are participating in Math Enrichment should be finishing up projects and assignments based on the first mathematics unit that is focused on multi-digit multiplication and division. All of those assignments are due on September 28. These enrichment activi-

ties are not required, but are great opportunities for students to show their level IV work.

The biggest emphasis should be on students elaborating on their response and turning in high-quality work rather than just completing an assignment as quickly as possible.

The next unit they are studying is decimals. Enrichment groups for this unit are in the process of being formed and students will be expected to complete those assignments by

October 18th.

Ms. Drake and 5th grade teachers are in the process of using a pre-assessment completed by using the CPS Clickers that were purchased with the funds from our Boosterthon fundraiser to quickly assess student mastery on the concepts that have not been presented yet.

Data from these pre-assessments will be used to determine student need for further enrichment.