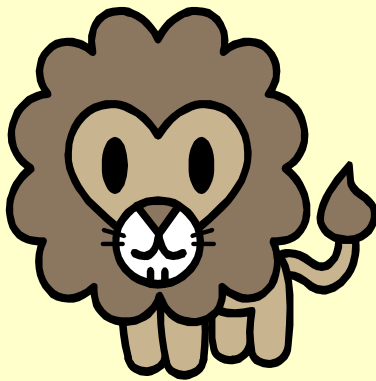


Linkhorn Park Elementary School

November 2009
Volume 1, Issue 1

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Gifted Resource News

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This year the gifted program is focusing our staff development training on the PCM of Identity. Teachers will use their expertise from the training to integrate their knowledge into a unit chosen by the cluster teacher.

The Parallel Curriculum Model (PCM) has four facets:

Core- The essential nature of a discipline (Learning Objectives).

Connections- The relationships among knowledge (How curriculum connects across subjects).

Practice- The applications of facts, concepts, principles, skills, and methods as scholars, researchers, developers, or practitioners (Role of the expert in a particular field of study).

Identity- Developing students' interests and expertise, strengths, values, and character (Provide opportunities for students to understand themselves more fully as they explore and work in a particular field).

What are the benefits for teachers and students when the Curriculum of Identity is included?

Teachers-

- Lessens the likelihood of one-size- fits-all curriculum
- Makes teaching more enjoyable as we get to know students personally
- Pinpoints where teachers need to make adjustments in the curriculum and instruction to accommodate those learning differences

Students:

- Engenders opportunities for students to think about the fit between his/her learning strengths and all aspects of a discipline
- Includes cognitive aspects as well as the day-to-day life of a practicing professional, their long-term goals, the sacrifices, commitments, responsibilities, and contributions that are required.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Destination Imagination Parent Meeting- Tuesday, November 24th in science lab at 3:00 pm
- ◆ 1st Grade Parent Workshop- January 11th from 6:30pm to 7:30pm
- ◆ 1st Grade Screening- January 13, 2010
- ◆ 1st Grade Testing- March 31, 2010
- ◆ Kemps Landing Magnet applications due- February 1, 2010
- ◆ Plaza Middle School applications due- February 1, 2010
- ◆ Old Donation Center applications due- February 1, 2010

Dear Parents,

Raising a gifted child can be a wonderful experience. We find great joy in recognizing gifted characteristics such as:

- Keen power of observation; naive receptivity; sense of the significant; willingness to examine the unusual
- Powers of abstraction, conceptualized, synthesis; interest in inductive learning and problem solving; pleasure in intellectual activity
- Interest in cause-effect relations and ability to see relationships; interest in applying concepts; love of truth
- Liking for structure and order; liking for consistency, as in value systems, number systems, clocks, calendars
- Retentiveness
- Verbal proficiency; large vocabulary; facility in expression; interest in reading; breadth of information in advanced areas
- Questioning attitude, intellectual curiosity, inquisitive mind, intrinsic motivation
- Power of critical thinking; skepticism, evaluative testing, self-criticism and self-self-checking

Accompanying those characteristics includes some connected or simultaneous problems that can be a challenge such as:

- Possible gullibility
- Occasional resistance to directions; rejection or omission of detail
- Difficulty in accepting the illogical
- Invention of own systems, sometimes conflicting
- Dislike for routine drill
- Need for specialized reading vocabulary early; escape into verbalism
- Lack of early home or school stimulation
- Critical attitude toward others; discouragement from self-criticism

As always, the gifted department is here to assist you in your journey. Stop by and visit our parent library at Linkhorn to continue educating yourself on how to make your journey a smooth one!

Second Grade News

Second graders started the year focusing on the theme of “Systems”. Throughout the year students will continue to make connections across the disciplines with this theme.

In math, students started Exemplars. They applied skills and concepts to problem solving situations and communicated their findings to their peers.

In science, students continue to focus on experimental design. We have been discussing research questions and the importance of repeating trials.

This week we will be going through the process using the “Super 3” research model to prepare for an interest based research in an upcoming weather unit.

Students will continue writer’s workshop in language arts. They will also start Junior Great Books. Their first story will be, “How the Camel Got His Hump.” This classic literature lends itself to critical and creative thinking. In addition, students will also begin focusing heavily on shared inquiry discussions. Shared inquiry promotes student led discussions and encourages questions that lead to authentic student dialogue.

Third Grade News

Students began the year in Miss Daly’s class participating in a gifted Greece and Rome unit. They researched Greek gifts which were grouped by interest. Students later made connections to these ancient civilizations and their third grade theme, “Structures”.

Students also began Junior Great Books and Math Exemplars.

In science, students have participated in a variety of inquiry lessons and have had the opportunity to explore experimental design as well. Students recently

completed a simple machines performance task. They designed a simple machine or compound machine to make life easier for our custodial staff at LPES. We encourage you to come take a look at their inventions!

Ms. Manley and Mrs. Murden have focused their first quarter of school on research. Students have explored research in all disciplines.

They have also begun the M3 unit, “Digging for Data.” This unit encourages students to analyze their data and communicate their findings.

Students have also been learning about ecosystems. They used a variety of sources to answer their research questions and are working on finalizing their performance task in language arts.

Mrs. Murden will begin Junior Great Books and continue to connect language arts concepts with science and social studies.





Fourth Grade News

Both language arts classes are participating in the William and Mary Unit, "Literary Reflections." This unit encompasses poetry, research, and novel studies. Mrs. Carolino's classes are wrapping up their novel study and will present their written responses. Ms. Crain's class will start their regions novel studies when we return from Thanksgiving break.

In science, students in Mrs. Dickens' classes are wrapping up their interest-based plant unit. They have been collecting data on

their plants and have been using Power Point to create a presentation presenting their data, results, and conclusions. She will continue using the M3 materials in math.

Mrs. Torres's classes researched famous astronomers in their interest based groups. They presented their findings to the class.

Students will continue their study of experimental design as well. Next week students will move out of the weather unit and into the matter unit.

Fifth Grade News

Students have focused their studies this year on Persuasion which is connected to the grade level theme, "Change."

The William and Mary unit, "Persuasion" has given students the opportunity to analyze literature. They have analyzed pieces such as Tom Sawyer and The Pledge of Allegiance. These lessons have provided great opportunities for student discussion.

In math, the cluster teachers will continue using M3, Math Exemplars, and Math

Extensions.

Mrs. Ramirez's classes began the gifted ocean's unit. This interest based performance task will continue for the next three weeks. Students developed their research questions and began their research this week.

Mrs. Wanamaker's classes completed their clay animation performance task. They shared their projects to their parents during parent-student conference day. What amazing products! They will move into the ocean's unit and begin researching sea turtles to connect to our Partner's in Education, the Virginia Aquarium.



Fifth graders collaborating during a lesson