



THE SHAPESHIFTERS: CLASS 507

Out with October, Now New November!

Quote of the month:

“You can never cross the ocean unless you have the courage to lose sight of the shore.”

We ended October with a bang at the annual PS 230 Character Day Parade! Students decided on the theme of “Humans Through the Ages” which we interpreted in different ways! Some of us decided represent the human life cycle, birth through late adulthood, some of decided to represent an era in fashion, some of us were presidents through the years, and some decided to represent a different time period: the Ice Age, the Medieval Period, The Revolutionary War, and World War II. The idea was so creative and original, and students put the whole thing together in a matter of periods!

WHAT ARE WE LEARNING THIS MONTH?

In reading...

We are finishing up our unit on “signposting”. Students have been paying close attention to the places in their stories that cause them to think about:



- problems characters are facing
- questions characters may be searching for the answers for
- moments that leave us surprised
- places where characters are giving advice
- places where characters are having memories from their lives

Focusing on these moments in our stories help us think about the big idea in the book. What is the author trying to tell us about life, the world, people?

Soon, We will begin reading Home of the Brave in class. Through this fictional book, students are learning to identify themes, use text evidence to support their thinking, and to continue to search for the bigger meaning.

Please have students use IREADY READING at home to improve their thinking about books.

IN WRITING...

In Writing we have been very busy! We are wrapping up our personal narrative. The focus of of the unit was two-fold: how do we tell and interesting story, and how do we tell a story that matters. Just like the authors of the the books we are reading, we each have our own truths and our own big ideas about our world. We have been working to communicate those ideas through a story about ourselves in an engaging and powerful way.

After we publish this piece, we will move on to non-fiction unit in Writing that will align with the students’ social studies work. We will be learning about the indigenous peoples of the Americas and European Explorers. We will again be focusing on communicating our big ideas about these non-fiction topics. .

In math...

In math, we are finishing up our unit on multiplication and division, which focuses on giving students many different strategies that can help them solve multi-digit equations. Additionally, we are working on formulating our own conjectures about mathematics (patterns we notice, or rules). Then we are pushing ourselves to think about why these patterns exist, and how they work.

Our next unit in math will be Volume. During that unit, students in the fifth grade will be building and discussing the elements of three-dimensional rectangular prisms. Students will be labeling dimensions, and solving for cubic units. Included in the Volume unit will be exposure of many complex word problems that require students to truly understand the concepts of three-dimensional shapes.

Please encourage your student to use First-In-Math and IREADY MATH at home to sharpen their mathematical fluency, which will help them in all areas of the upcoming units.

<p>IN SOCIAL STUDIES...</p> <p>We are wrapping up our study of different kinds of maps, their purposes, and their qualities. For our next unit of study, we will be learning about the indigenous people in the Americas during the pre-Columbus era. We will be noticing how geography affected their lives and culture.</p>	<p>IN SCIENCE...</p> <p>This school year our 5th grade scientists will be doing many hands-on science investigations. We have begun by getting our science notebooks organized and every 5th grade scientist has a role in their groups! Our first unit of study is called Physical and Chemical Changes/Variables. We will explore how matter can change or stay the same when combined! At home, you can explore what happens when you mix some everyday items found in your kitchen such as salt and water or sugar and water. Always have an adult explore with you!</p>	<p>Technology...</p> <p>Technology curriculum topics that 5th graders will study this year include: Applications Review (Microsoft Word/Microsoft PowerPoint), Digital Citizenship, Typing (By the end of 5th grade, students should type 20-25 words per minute), G-Suite, and Creation Tools. All students have been given a Keyboarding Without Tears account. We encourage students to use their accounts at home for no more than 10 minutes a day. Feel free to email me with any questions: Kconnolly8@schools.nyc.gov.</p>
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<p>In gym...</p> <p>Motor Skills & Fitnessgram! We will begin the City Fitnessgram testing with height/weight measurements. Also, we will stay active by utilizing our 9 locomotive skills in fun high energy activities to stimulate our bodies and minds!</p> <p>In health...</p> <p>The Anatomy of the body! We will dive into the different systems of the human body. We will understand why it's important, how it works and do fun activities to further explore!</p>	<p>In Art...</p> <p>In November, we will explore shape and pattern. We'll look at the work of both contemporary and historical artists for inspiration.</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">Upcoming Dates & Important Event</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ 11/6 No School → Election Day ★ 11/12 No School → Veteran's Day ★ 11/15 Parent Teacher Conferences → ½ day dismissal at 11:40am ★ 11/23-11/23 No School → Thanksgiving break ★ 11/30-PTA movie night → 5:30-8:30pm 	<p style="text-align: center;">Fifth Grade Parent Teacher Conferences</p> <p>Fifth grade parent teacher conferences will take place on November 14th and 15th. Please be on the look-out for notices coming home in regards to timing and location.</p>
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