



Public School 8, The Robert Fulton School

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5 th Grade Newsletter

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This month our students attended a tour of MS 915.

Humanities

Reading

Learning through Reading: Westward Expansion (Non-Fiction Skills): Students will learn how to approach non-fiction text by considering the structure and point-of view of an author. They will read across multiple texts, in order to practice a variety of non-fiction reading skills such as: main idea, vocabulary in context, author's craft and determining importance. They will carry over their work from Unit One on

growing theories, except they will use non-fiction structures to do so. All of this work will be done with content that supports the current Social Studies unit on Westward Expansion. They will have an opportunity to choose from a variety of expert groups, as the unit progresses.

Writing



Unit Two: Informational Articles : In this unit, students use their content knowledge of Westward Expansion to write Informational Articles on a chosen topic within the Social Studies Unit. They become experts on this topic and are supported with the reading skills, and note-taking skills to angle their research. Ultimately, they take their notes and create an article that is organized into an: Introduction,

Section Headings and Conclusion. Students learn to write topic sentences connected to the big idea of the section, how to organize the supporting details in a sequential way and re-state that big idea to bring closure to that section. In addition, they will learn how to define vocabulary, elaborate on important facts/ideas and share a deeper understanding through connection or wondering. Articles will be supported with relevant text features such as pictures, captions, fun facts and more!

Social Studies



Unit One: Westward Expansion (Mid-October):Students will pick-up right where they left off in 4th grade to understand why and how people moved West. They will come to understand what happened after the Revolutionary War, beginning with the Louisiana Purchase. They will study this historical time period through multiple perspectives. They will learn through the lens of: African-Americans, Native Americans, Women and Pioneers. They will learn through shared readings, images, quotes and classroom discussions. The reading and writing units are in support to this unit. This means that they all connect.

The essential questions that they will be exploring throughout the unit will be:

- What ideas, events, conflicts and resolutions shaped the new nation?

- How have the forces of expansion shaped the nation?
- How did expansion impact different groups of people?

Students will be given an opportunity to choose focus groups as the unit progresses. Some examples are: Gold Rush, Trail of Tears and Transcontinental Railroad.

[Read more on our website](#)

Math and Science

Math

This week the fifth grade wrapped up Unit 1: Expression, Equations, and Volume and started Unit 2: Adding and Subtracting Fractions.

In this unit your child will:

- Add and subtract fractions with unlike denominators.
- Connect money and clock models to their work with fractions.
- Solve story problems involving addition and subtraction of fractions with unlike denominators
- Find common denominators for fractions with unlike denominators
- Find the greatest common factor and least common multiple to help simplify fractions and find common denominators
- Multiply multi-digit numbers

Please click on the following link for more explanation of the methods used to teach adding and subtracting with unlike denominators: [Unit 2 Overview](#)

Science

The fifth graders are starting the second chapter in the Patterns of Earth and Sky Unit. In Chapter 2, students are introduced to pattern-seeking as a scientific practice and begin to look for patterns in order to help them make sense of data from their investigations.

The chapter begins with students investigating what causes the daily pattern of when we see the sun and other stars. Students then investigate the question: "If Earth spins, which way is up?". Activities acquaint students with the concept that Earth pulls objects toward its center (down) with the force of gravity, so while down is toward the ground, up is the opposite of down—away from the ground—no matter where a person is on Earth.

At the end of the chapter, students apply what they've learned to write their own scientific explanations that address the Chapter 2 Question: Why is the sun up sometimes, but not other times?

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

- **Nov 5:** No School due to Chancellors Day(PD Day for Staff)
- **Nov 8:** Photo Day Makeups
- **Nov 11:** No School due to Veterans Day
- **Nov 14:** Half Day & Student Led Conferences
- **Nov 18-22:** Book Fair

Please contact homeroom teachers with questions or concerns:

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