



7-3's

STAR EXPRESS



January/February 2010

Reading by Alex S.

In Mrs. Farina's reading class we started our adventure unit. We learned about the life and works of Jack London. For instance, we read short stories, poems, and even the astounding book *The Call of the Wild*. In this book we met the instinctive dog, Buck. Buck was a loving dog who had a passion for his owner John Thorton. In the end, Buck returns to the wild where he belongs. We concluded by watching the movie and comparing/contrasting it to the book. Overall, we discovered that the movie was very different from the book. The students will conclude the adventure unit by making Survival/Adventure books for young children. We will continue by reading our Adventure/Survival books to a pre-school class.



Science by Mackenzie D.

We learned a lot in science. As usual, we had to write 6 current events about what is happening in the outside world related to science. We have been discussing the cell processes, specifically cancer and cell transport, how things move around the cell.

We did an experiment using the elodea leaf. We made one slide with the leaf as a control, and the second slide we added sodium chloride to the water. Using the microscope, we observed osmosis in the elodea leaf, the diffusion of water through a cell membrane.

Currently the class is studying mitosis, which is when cells duplicate. To learn the phases of mitosis, we brought in odds and ends to create our own Cell Cycle. Even though the phases are the same, all of the projects are very different.



Social Studies by Dana P.

During the course of this month we covered Ancient China. We learned about its geography and the two out of the four dynasties: The Shang and The Zhou. The Shang dynasty was the first dynasty, later it was conquered by the Zhou dynasty. The Zhou dynasty had many problems. January ended with a mini project on the Shang and Zhou dynasties. During this month we had a lot of fun and many laughs learning about Ancient China and we will continue the Ancient China unit into February.

Language Arts by Hina S.

This month we worked on a genetic disorder research report. We went to the computer lab multiple times to do research through Nettekter and other various websites. Then, we learned how to transfer our information onto note cards. We learned three different ways to take notes: paraphrasing, quoting, and listing. Then, we took our information and put it into a graphic organizer. Lastly, we learned how to paraphrase correctly and how to avoid plagiarism.

Math by Mike N. and Will C.

This month Pre-Algebra we learned about rates, ratios, and proportions. We discussed how to solve equations that have ratios with a missing variable. Currently, we're creating a map by solving ratio equations. Also, we learned how to solve equations that have variables on both sides of the equal sign. Altogether it was a great month for learning in Pre-Algebra. We're all excited to see what other interesting topics we'll learn about next month.

This month in Math 7 our class learned how to solve ratios and rates. We also studied how to simplify and change mixed numbers into fractions. The classes took two tests - one on simplifying ratios and one on rates. Next, we learned how to find the unit price of problems.



Holocaust Survivors Visit the 7th Grade

By Hannah M.




The 7th grade had the pleasure to meet, not one but two Holocaust survivors. Mrs. Farina worked hard to bring the survivors to our school. We were able to learn about their lives during the Holocaust. The survivors learned not only how hard life was during the Holocaust, but also the dangers that occurred when one person had the power and that person didn't like a certain group of people.

In class, each student was assigned a Holocaust survivor or victim. Each student stood up, recited their person's name and gender. If their person survived, then that student had to sit down, but if their person died, then they remained standing. This showed the audience the possibilities of living and dying during the Holocaust.

To conclude the assembly, we watched the movie *Freedom Writers*. This movie also had a very important life lesson. It taught us the same thing, but in other people's perspectives.

Upcoming School Events:

February

monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday
1	2 	3	4	5
8	9 Investors Mtg.	10	11 Wear Red Builders Club Mtg.	12 No School 
15 No School	16	17	18 HR Rep Meeting	19
22 	23	24	25 Builders Club Mtg.	26 Mix Match Day