

Union Elementary School Bobcat News

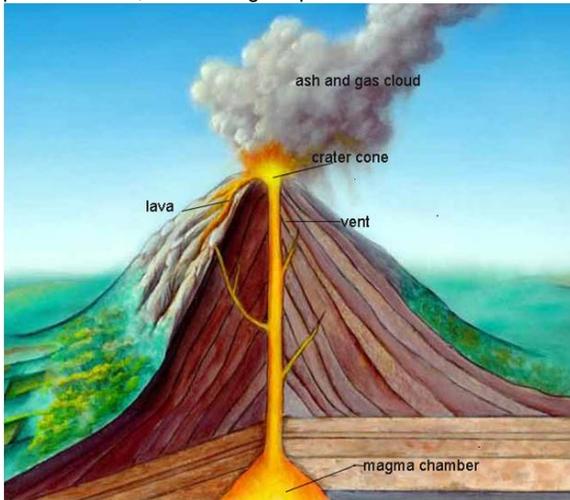
1st Edition Vol.2 2016/17

Sixth Grade

Mr. Nowak's 6th grade class has just finished up the Life Science portion of the year with an owl pellet dissection project. Students dissected and mounted the bones found in "pellets" coughed up by owls. These results gave students a better understanding of the important niche owls have in an ecosystem. Looking forward, the class will be starting Earth Science. Students will be modeling the phases of the moon with Oreo cookies and erupting salt dough volcanoes using vinegar and baking soda.

In writing, the students are using the writing scoring guide to rate writing samples from other schools. The class spent two weeks reviewing the writing process and writing elements preparing for the writing samples. We will start our pre-writes for our personal narratives in the weeks to come.

In Social Studies, the students have moved from ancient Mesopotamia to ancient Egypt. The class will be building a social class pyramid using sugar cubes, an Egyptian pharaoh mask, and carving soap scarabs.



First Grade

Winter has been full of many surprises and lots of snow which is very exciting for kiddos. I think many of us may have different opinions, but it has been a real treat to watch the students' excitement over the large amounts of snowfall this year. However, with that being said, we have worked hard to stay focused on our curriculum. First graders are growing by leaps and bounds in their reading journeys. We have what we call a "Take Home Reading Program" in our classroom which puts a book in every student's hand nightly, that they can most definitely read with little, to even no help! They are excited about this and I hope that parents are beaming with joy as they listen to their child read each evening. Math is continuing to build upon old concepts as well as new material such as: related facts, fact families, and terms like, greater than, less than, and equal to. Many of you may make that correlation with a rhyme used for years that says, "The 'GATOR eats the GREATER!" It's often taught with an alligator's mouth symbol to help students recognize the larger number and make comparisons.

We have a new student teacher from now until the end of the year named, Miss Bonner. She is originally from Georgia and we look forward to getting to know her better and share her knowledge in our room. We welcome her and know that she'll enjoy her time in our classroom!

Fifth Grade

Fifth grade has been studying early Colonial life in America and soon we will be learning the names of all of the states and capitals.

We will be learning about the solar system, with particular attention paid to the Earth.

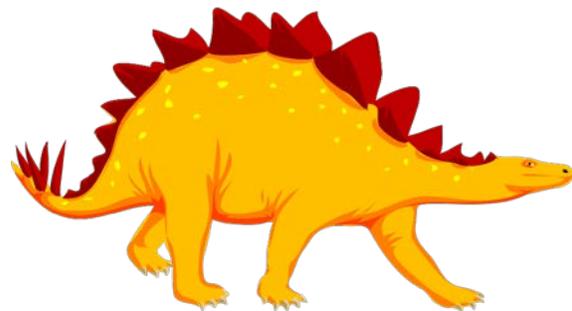
We have finished with the DARE program and will have our DARE graduation in the Miller gym, February 7th in the afternoon. More information to follow. Think Spring!!

Second Grade

Despite a few snow days, the second graders have been busy working and learning. We continue to work on fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary expansion in Reading. Handwriting is becoming more of a focus, as in working neatly. During the third quarter, we will begin a unit on Folk Tales, Legends, and Fairy Tales which should be a lot of fun.

The students continue to work towards getting 100 correct single-digit, addition problems in five minutes and 100 correct subtraction problems in seven minutes. If you can find spare time, please help your child learn his/her basic addition and subtraction facts. You can find flash cards at the Dollar Tree and other local merchants. We have also moved on to double-digit addition, and the students are excelling at this.

In Social Studies we have been studying the world, and learning about the seven continents and how they differ and are the same. Soon we will begin a study of the Solar System, and after that we will learn about the Age of the Dinosaurs.



Fourth Grade

Fundraising has already begun for the annual fourth grade trip around Oregon. Letters have been sent out and donations have already started to come in. Students are learning about Oregon history and geography in Social Studies and will be able to apply this knowledge to their travels in the spring.

In Math, students have been working hard at long division. If you are helping with homework, ask them to recite the little "rap" they learned to help them remember the steps for long division. Some students have mastered this difficult concept, but multiplication and division flashcards have been sent home for others to help them master this concept as well.

As Valentine's Day is coming up, fourth graders need containers to decorate. If you can send a shoe box, a large coffee can, or oatmeal container to fourth grade that would be appreciated.



Third Grade

The school year has flown by, and we're learning so much in third grade. In math we've learned how to multiply and divide numbers between 0 and 10. This has been a challenge, but the students have worked so hard to master it. We just began learning how to write cursive letters. The class is so excited to continue learning more cursive letters so they can complete their writing in cursive. In social studies we're talking about government and presidents. This topic has been really fun for the students to learn about because they are able to do research and share their findings with the class.

Next quarter we are looking forward to an animal research writing project that we will complete using our classroom Chromebooks.

Kindergarten Happenings

This month our kindergarteners are learning how to add numbers together. We are learning math vocabulary such as plus, is equal to, & add. In Reading we are learning how to blend sounds together to make words. We are also listening for the final sounds at the end of words. We learn how to spell, read, and write 2 new sight words every week. We read a variety of stories every day based on themes. This week's theme is "What do animals do when the weather changes?" We are keeping that same theme in science as we start a unit on arctic animals. We have also spent some time learning about the weather and the seasons. In Social Studies, we learned about Martin Luther King Jr.

Music

Music activities continue to be exciting and busy. The band continues to play for an occasional Basketball game and pep assemblies. A few students are studying to be in the solo and ensemble contest on March 4th. Wish them luck! The band and choir are also gearing up for the JV Band and Choir Festival, March 8th. Elementary classes will be looking for opportunities to perform. Give us ideas! Thank you for blessing your kids with music.

Snow, Snow and more Snow!

Union School District has had FIVE SNOW DAYS, which everyone knows is pretty unheard of. So far we are not adding any new school days, we intend to change 2/23, and 5/4 from early release days into full school days. Currently the State Board of Education is considering allowing districts to use inclement weather days in their calendar. When the state comes out with a ruling on this, the district will make a decision on how to adjust the calendar. Thank you for your patience as we see how the rest of the winter unfolds.

