SIXTH GRADE

Altruism, Empathy, Gratitude, Honesty, and Responsibility are all important ingredients in the recipe for a successful student! Mr. Nowak’s 6th grade class has been discussing and writing on these key character traits in reading and language arts. The project will culminate in a character board displaying these traits, student goals, and interests.

As we have been looking at the foundation of a great personality, in science we have been focusing on the building blocks of all life (Cells). In a two day lab, students used light microscopes to examine and draw specimens from all five kingdoms. In addition, students brought in “pond scum” samples to spotlight living protists like paramecium and amoebas. This unit will have the students creating a 3D model of an animal/plant cell including all organelles and functions.

Finally, in Social Studies, we are delving into the birth of civilization itself, “Ancient Mesopotamia”. Between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in present day Syria and Iraq, the Mesopotamians were responsible for creating the wheeled-cart, plow, irrigation, and cuneiform. Students will be working on building a Mesopotamian city-state out of salt-dough featuring the religious temple or ziggurat.

Third Grade

We have had a great start to the year in third grade. With a small class, we’ve been able to accomplish so much! We’ve made it through our first two chapters of math, and we just began learning multiplication...that is always an exciting time in third grade! Also, the students have worked very hard and are about to complete their first research project about animals. Each student chose an animal that they were interested in, and they had to use books to look up information and complete their project. They will each have their own book that they made to take home and share with their family!

Second Grade

Wow! Time sure flies when you are having fun! We have been very busy in second grade! In Reading, our focus has been on sequencing, comparing and contrasting, author’s purpose, and cause and effect. In Language Arts, our focus has been on subjects and predicates, simple sentences, types of sentences, and nouns. Our focus in Writing, has been narratives, where students have practiced writing true stories with a topic sentence, details/facts, and a closing sentence. They are all going to be great writers by the end of the school year! Math has been a big hit with students this year! They seem to really be enjoying the subject, which is great to see. Students have been exploring number concepts, numbers up to 1000, as well as place value. Lastly, we have started a new science curriculum this year, which allows for many hands on activities and experiments. We have been learning about ecosystem diversity and will be building different habitats for real pill bugs in the next few weeks, which students are really excited for. What a privilege it is to work with these outstanding second graders this year. Parents you should be proud! I’m truly looking forward to the rest of the year and all the exciting adventures it will bring. Happy Fall Y’All! 9

Kindergarten – Elliott

In my class, we have been working hard on learning how to write our names. I feel that it is super important how to write our name! We have also been celebrating letters and their sounds by doing Zoo-phonics. Zoo-phonics is about making stories and using animals for their letter sound! For math, the class has been working hard on learning their numbers and how to write them. We are currently diving into learning greater than, less than, and equal amount! So far the students are getting a good grasp of what equal amount means! For the upcoming week (Halloween), I am including some fun pumpkin activities to get the students ready for the trip to the pumpkin patch! The students are excited and so am I! I love monsters and I thought it was also fitting that for this week, we do some fun activities involving monsters. We have already made our own monsters! If you see my classroom, it is filled with monsters and the students seem to really enjoy it and of course they are nice monsters! Lastly, we are growing some pumpkin seeds and interacting with Bess bugs for Science! The students really enjoy seeing their pumpkin seed grow and learn the needs of plants and animals!
First Grade

The first nine weeks have been spent learning all sorts of concepts in reading, math, and science, as well as reestablishing friendships and routines. Reading has brought about new terms and elements of reading such as story webs, informational texts, and how to read for understanding! We also work very hard on our phonics and writing in our journals! We've started our first writing sample which is an opinion piece. We've been learning about how to have an opinion and formulating ideas to support it! I love watching little minds expand with knowledge! It's one of the many pleasures of being a teacher. In math, we have already learned many different strategies for addition and key words such as: addends, sums, addition sentences, ten frames, and how much we love adding doubles! We've learned a math doubles song which helps us learn our doubles facts, and I'm sure the music teacher appreciates us practicing our singing! Science has been exciting so far learning about living and non-living things, adaptations, and plant life! We even grew our own bean plants and most of them survived! We are looking forward to our first classroom party and the annual community Halloween parade! This tradition for our school and community is second to none! It's always so fun to see the streets lined with friends and family members who are taking in the joys of kids and dressing up in their favorite costumes. We appreciate how much our little community supports our school and kids. We will also enjoy our annual trip to the Pumpkin Patch! A huge thank you to Mark and Judy Wing for having our classes each year!

FIFTH GRADE

The fifth graders are still adjusting to the new routines and expectations of fifth grade, but progress is being made. I am hopeful that by Christmas we will be a well-oiled machine. I am happily learning what makes these kids tick, and how to motivate them.

So far in Science we have learned about what makes roller-coasters work, made chain reaction machines, learned that there are no magic potions as well as not being able to turn something into gold. We are diligently memorizing our times tables and jumping with both feet into division in math. Any extra practice they do on memorizing the times tables would be great.

I know that the class is enjoying P.E. everyday as well as lunch and recess. We are looking forward to the holiday season and all of the fun activities that they bring.

Fourth Grade

The first quarter of the fourth-grade school year has been great. We've learned so much! We have learned cursive handwriting, and we are excellent at it. We also dissected squid! We watched a dissecting video, and Ms. Huffman walked us through it. We are working on multiplying into the thousands. There are two reading groups. One is reading HANK ZIPZER and the other is reading CALEB'S STORY. We have a new Art teacher, Mrs. Gustavson. We also have a new music teacher named Miss Winters. This is what the fourth grade has done in the first quarter.

Submitted by: Dakota Norenberg, Millie Miller and Andrea Sellick.

Kindergarten - Sheehy

Our kindergarten class energy is gaining ground. October is the first month that we go to school all day. We still feel sleepy sometimes, but we are excited about all the new things that we get to do. What an exciting time! We learned about fire safety and had our first fire drill. We get to go to art class and PE twice a week. We love going to the library on Tuesday. We have read lots of "FLY GUY" books. Pretty soon, we get to go to Mr. & Mrs. Wing's farm to get a pumpkin. We have been growing pumpkins from seeds in class. In science, we have been learning about what living things need by observing plants and Bess bugs.

Mr. Dunlap

The first quarter of our school year has flown by. It's exciting to see the new faces around our school and watch them become a part of our Union Elementary family!! As a staff we are excited to move into the winter months of school and all the activities that come with this time of year. Please note that our Christmas Program has been moved to December 18th at 6pm. Please don't ever hesitate to call or stop by the office for any reason. Have a great winter season and the holidays that come with it.

Music

Hello all! This is Ms. Winters, the new music teacher. I have been having the time of my life getting to know all of my students, and sharing with them my love for music and education. This quarter has mostly been me assessing where they are at in their music education, so we can move forward together. I am hoping to start some students on instruments soon, and look forward to seeing and meeting you all at the Christmas program, December 18, 2018, at 6:00 PM.
All my best, Ms. Winters

From the Elementary Office

The 2018 – 2019 School Year will be Deb Titus' last year here at the Union School District. Deb is retiring after 20 years of keeping track kids.