

## 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Classes:

### Social Studies with Mr. Bird:

Students in social studies have begun learning about the New England colonies beginning with Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay Colony. Students learned about the Puritans and their way of life in New England. To end the week, students created postcards to describe their “visit” to the Massachusetts colony in a note to a friend. Students had the option to create the postcard on paper or a digital version. Next week, we will continue the New England colonies with Connecticut and Rhode Island.

### Science with Ms. Diaz

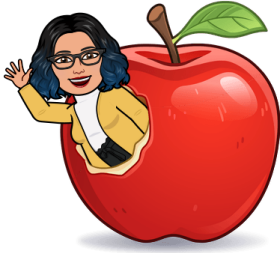
Greetings Scientists, congratulations on completing the first week after winter break!

**This week:** We began our unit on Earth Science, starting with the topic of tectonic plates and how the world looks so different now from millions of years ago. We had our weekly quiz on Thursday and our Friday assignment is making a slide with information about one of the world’s largest volcanoes. “Calling all parents,” I repeat, “calling all parents!” Your fellow scientist has been given their Trimester 2 science project which is to model a volcanic eruption. Students were given instructions and are supposed to share it with you. The handout can be accessed via this link: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1\\_tMyHM0NxIxsY78BKN9D-RDUniG9Nxp-/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_tMyHM0NxIxsY78BKN9D-RDUniG9Nxp-/view?usp=sharing) Project start date is Monday, Jan. 11th, and students will have 2-3 weeks to complete it. The project is done individually, so no collaboration this time \*sorry :-(, and all work is to be completed at home, to prevent items being brought back and forth to school. I am so excited to see everyone’s volcano model!

**Next week:** Tectonic plates continued...

**Mission to Mars:** New trip dates of April 5-8, 2021. Please check [Diaz Does Science](#) for the video update.

## Math with Mrs. Linarez



**\*friday's attendance question does go in the gradebook\***  
**Recording of my lessons are posted in google classroom.**

**Varsity:** This past week we spent a lot of time learning about decimal place value. For this week we will review what we have learned about reading and writing decimals. Also how decimals and fractions are equivalent to each other. We will also take a quiz this week on what we have learned.

**Scholastic:** This past week students learned about solving one step equations. It was a hard concept to understand at first for many students but with all the practice we have done, the students have really picked it up. This week we will finish algebraic sequences and start preparing for our quiz the following week.

**Honors:** We started off the past week with reviewing solving 2 step equations. This we will finish our lessons on solving multi-step equations and having variables on both sides of the equation. We will also start reviewing in preparation for our quiz.

## Math with Mrs. Nijjar

**Varsity:** We spent the first week of 2021 reviewing concepts related to decimals. Students solved puzzles, mazes, and escape rooms to reinforce these concepts. In the coming week, students will be taking the unit-3 test, and will be ready to start with unit-4.

**Scholastic:** Students this week learned about forming equations and solving the same. Students had fun using real life examples to make their equations, and solving them later. In the coming week, students will be working on patterns and arithmetic sequences.

**Honors:** We spent this week reviewing the Substitution method for solving the system of equations, and started with the Elimination method. In the coming week, students will be learning to solve and graph inequalities. The very first quiz of this unit is scheduled on Monday (1/11/21)

## Language Arts with Mr. Harding

Class begins with a daily essential question. It is imperative that students answer this question within the first ten minutes of class. The assignment is graded at least once a week. The open ended essential question ties to the theme of the day's learning.

Students are also required to complete weekly grammar practice using IXL or NoRedInk. Weekly progress is graded. If a student's grade is slipping, inconsistency with our daily and weekly assignments is most likely responsible.

We are finishing our academic pentathlon text, Spies. Our dive into the history of the Cold War has introduced advanced vocabulary, inspiring and poignant music, an array of US Presidents, and an opportunity to see how individual actions shaped world events and relations.

Please remember to log in on Fridays and complete the assignment on time. Weekly assessments and Humanities coursework will be assigned on Fridays. The Friday assignments will most often be graded as a weekly assessment, not daily work. Per school policy, late work is not accepted.

As a reminder, students are responsible for 20 minutes of independent reading every day. Each student will take a quiz on the book they read during D.E.A.R. time.

## Language Arts with Ms. Rodieck

For our last week before Winter Break, we did a final project called Spies Trading Cards. Here are some of the slides that were created.

Name: Oleg Penkovsky

Born: April 23, 1919 in Vladikavkaz, Russia

Died: May 16, 1963 in Moscow, Russia

Worked for: GRU

Spied for: Greville Wynne

Aliases: Codename HERO



### Interesting Facts

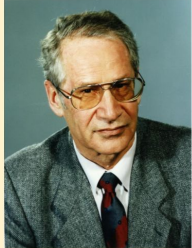
- He was probably the West's most valuable double agent during the Cold War.
- Soviet military intelligence officer who was convicted of spying for the United Kingdom and the United States.
- He died because he committed suicide on May 16, 1963

### Why

Penkovsky is known for informing the United Kingdom about the Soviet emplacement of missiles in Cuba, thus providing both the UK and the United States with the precise knowledge necessary to address rapidly developing military tensions with the Soviet Union.

**Name: Markus Wolf**

Born: January 19, 1923 in Germany  
 Died: November 9, 2006 in Germany  
 Worked for: CIA  
 Spied for: KGB  
 Aliases: The Man without a Face



### Interesting Facts

- Wolf wouldn't give the names he worked for
- His trial sparked a debate the crimes committed during the Cold War.
- Wolf known as the most wanted spy in Germany.

### Why

Murkus became a spy because he recalled that he had no guilt.

### George Blake:

Born: 1922 Rotterdam Holland  
 Died: Currently 98 years old  
 Worked for: MI6  
 Spied for: KGB  
 Aliases: The Double



### Interesting Facts

- He originally worked for British Secret Intelligence Service.
- He read the book Das Kapital and then believed in Communism.
- After he gave information to the KGB about British intelligence

### Why

- He had a family history in British Intelligence and he was brave.
- He started to spy for the KGB because he switched his views on communism.

### Elizabeth Bentley

Born: January 1, 1908 in New Milford, CT.  
 Died: December 3, 1963 and in Grace-New Haven Hospital in New Haven, Connecticut.  
 Worked for:KGB  
 Spied for:KGB  
 Aliases:had none



### Interesting Facts

She was an american spy and member of the communist party.  
 She worked closely with Jacob Gores to manage the communist party U.S.A.(Cpusa) network of KGB sources and spies.

### Why

She spied for the KGB because she believed in the communist party. But when she thought the KGB was going to turn on her, she turned herself into the FBI.

For our next independently read book I am creating book clubs - students will be reading the same book and getting the chance to discuss it on-line. This will be easier to facilitate if in-person students have headphones (with mics would be nice) in class. They will be sampling each of the books before choosing one to read. All the books are written by Gary Paulsen, the author of our next class novel.

The theme for our next unit is Identity. We will be reading *Woodson* by Gary Paulsen along with some poetry. I expect



the whole unit will take 6 weeks and will end with an art project and essay about their own identities.

Hug the ones you love whether in person or virtually.

## Technology with Ms. Ferguson

Week 3 of the second trimester is going well! Students have adjusted to their new routines, and the technology students are doing so well! This week the students worked on a research project where they chose one animal to research. Through this project the students are practicing their research skills, utilizing copy and paste skills to create a list of sources from their research, and are using their design skills in Google Slides to develop a facts flyer for their chosen animal! Next week the students will be presenting their flyer to the class.

## ART CLUB with Ms. L

Students in Art club this Thursday participated in a Spooky Paint-a-long and created their own Haunted Houses! Below are screenshots of our Zoom and pictures of final products :)

