

THE ROOST REPORTER

The Newsletter of Record for Sixth Grade

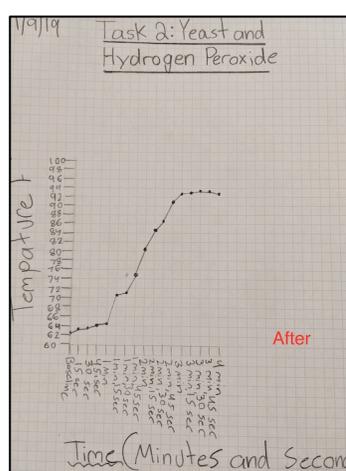
Jan 11, 2019

Finding Balance



Our winter expedition, "Finding Balance," isn't just about nutrition and diet! We are also looking at balance through the lens of the arts. In Physical Expedition, students are learning capoeira and yoga, and how balance engages the mind, body, and spirit. In music, we will begin creating original mini-scores and transitions for our podcast project, balancing the use of the Orff instruments in our work. In visual arts, we are designing balanced compositions in acrylic still life paintings and playing with the concept of balance in creative and challenging ways. How do you find balance in your busy life? Share your thoughts with your child and encourage them to seek their own way to balance school and home!

New Year, New Attitude



"Success is sweet, but failure is good food," is a mantra we here often at GCCS. Even from the youngest age, we learn to "fail forward." This week we had the opportunity to learn from failure and turn it into a celebration of craftsmanship and high quality work. Our science lab work before break yielded some rich data that allowed us to identify endothermic and exothermic reactions in progress. We tried to visualize these, even provided a model, but those first graphs were, well, not pretty. We took a look at a handful of good ones, identified the qualities of exceptional work, had students look at their own, then apply it to their work. The difference was night and day. By taking the time to look at quality - and why being proud of our work matters - sixth-graders completely turned it around. Now we can tap into this experience when looking at different types of work (especially as Passage season really starts to kick into gear!).

Simon Says...

- ✓ **Passage Time** - The new year kicks off the need to move Passage work along. Students are finalizing questions and examining cause/ effect relationships in Rochester's history. Research will be our next step.
- ✓ **Recess Reminder** - It's winter and we are out in it! We've already had a few wind chill days that have kept us inside, but hats and gloves help on breezy days when the weather allows us to get out.
- ✓ **Spelling**- We are excited to give our new spelling curriculum a test drive this year. There is a predictable pattern to spelling lessons: pre-assessment, direct instruction lesson, independent practice & feedback, spelling quiz. Every week. Each student has a list of words s/he is responsible for. Check in with your child about the most recent quiz!
- ✓ **Four Cities** - January payments are due; let us know if you need an updated balance.

Math Update

Hellloooooooo, algebra! Yes, it really feels like middle school math now that algebra has arrived. Those elusive exponents, vexing variables, and onerous operations can drive some to run screaming, but not in sixth-grade. We unpacked our math demons and are learning to love the foreign language of algebra. Like any foreign language, you need to understand its alphabet and structure before you can start speaking. That's where we are right now, learning the lingo and slowly piecing together the structure (PEMDAS, anyone?). Be sure to check in with your young mathematician about how it's going so far. Math fact fluency makes life easier in algebra land - check in on those multiplication facts!

Your Sixth Grade Team

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