



THE ROOST REPORTER



The Newsletter of Record for Sixth Grade

Sep. 30, 2017

Starting with Service



Having just completed an Advisory activity on the meaning of service, we decided there was no better way to reinforce the concept than to dig in with a little bit or service ourselves! As part of the National Green Apple Day of Service, our sixth graders helped get our raised bed garden prepped for planting for the school year. Working in crews, our class took on the daunting and dirty task of distributing compost, soil, and peat moss to our raised beds, mixing the ingredients thoroughly, and understanding the role service plays at our school and in life.



Sixth graders at GCCS are required to contribute at least ten hours of community service (now nine, as our garden project counted towards that total) as a requirement for portfolio passage. Students will write about these experiences in one of their final written reflections. Service has been an important part of sixth grade expeditions and is a big part of our capstone project. However, service isn't just about doing favors on a checklist. It's really about supporting a cause important to you or your community, helping others who need AND want the assistance, and stepping outside your comfort zone and seeing the world from another perspective.



Sixth graders are already service leaders at school, but now we want them to spread into the larger Rochester community and try on new roles. We have two service opportunities coming up they might be interested, both helping out at 5Ks for good causes. The first one is the Walk to End Alzheimer's on October 21st at Frontier Field. GCCS parent Carla Morris is coordinating this so please contact her directly about volunteering: cmpasq@yahoo.com. The other one is the Wegman's Grocery Run on Nov. 4th along East Avenue. Our class has informally "adopted" the finish line water station, handing out bottles and "good job" compliments to runners. Mr. Dolgos is coordinating this event, so let him know if your sixth grader would like to help out. Service hours do need to be logged on a form we gave the kids this week. Ask to see it and help them keep it safe!

Slowing Down for Success

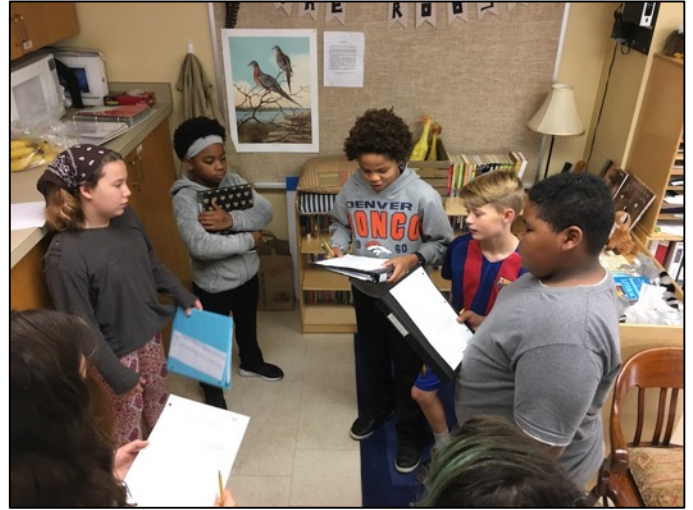
Expedition is humming along and we are nearing the end of our study of the Neolithic Era (look for an assessment next week!). We discovered that our literacy-based expedition lessons are taking us a little longer than we had anticipated - but that's a good thing! It's teaching us to be intentional, checking closely on the quality of student work, and making sure we don't lose anyone along the way. Between the first six weeks of schools and the associated routines and our leadership retreat, we will be making some adjustments to our expedition timeline and final product (sometimes we are too ambitious).

Rest assured, we are fully committed to a social justice oriented curriculum but want to make sure our students are all on board with the fundamentals of reading and writing in the content we are studying. Look for more expedition updates in next week's newsletter.

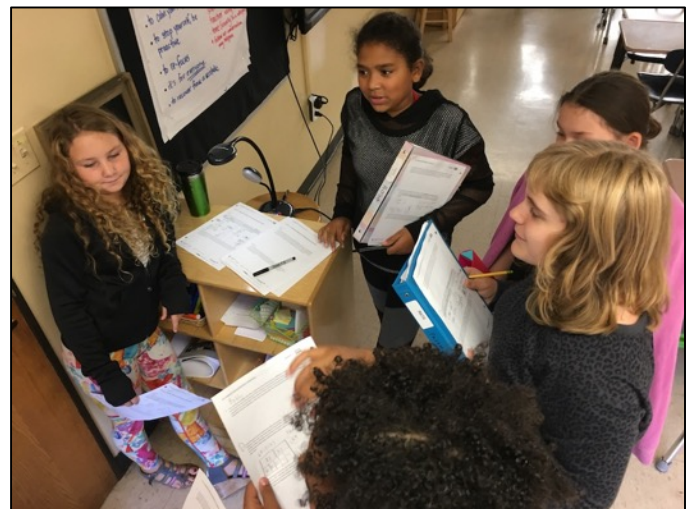


- ✓ **Tech Time** - Students will need their earbuds/headphones soon. Please send in for next week.
- ✓ **Homework** - Be sure to read and sign the Weekly Reflection that came home with your student this week. It counts as the first HW assignment of next week. Feel free to leave us feedback regarding any missing or late assignments.
- ✓ **NO School** - No school for kids Friday, Oct. 6 (Teacher PD) or Monday, Oct. 9 (Columbus Day).

Thinking Like Mathematicians



What does it mean to “think like a mathematician?” Our sixth graders explored that question this week as we unpacked the math practice standards and re-framed them as the Habits of a Mathematician. In order to do math well, there are certain dispositions we need to adopt. These include applying previous knowledge, looking for and using patterns, choosing the right tools, persevering, critiquing the work of others, and communicating ideas clearly. We worked in pairs and triads to solve some tricky ratio problems then gathered in small groups to give each other feedback. Our ratio work has been pretty intense and practicing these skills will require more time. Check in on math homework and ask your 6th grader to explain which habits they are applying to the work.



Your Sixth Grade Team

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