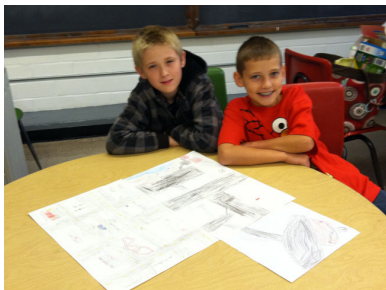


Gifted Update

1st Quarter 2011

Our year is off to a terrific start in the Gifted classrooms of Hardin Northern, Ridgemont, and Upper Scioto Valley Elementary Schools! During the first nine weeks, we focused on the subjects of Reading and Social Studies. Here is just a quick glimpse into what the students worked on during the 1st nine weeks:

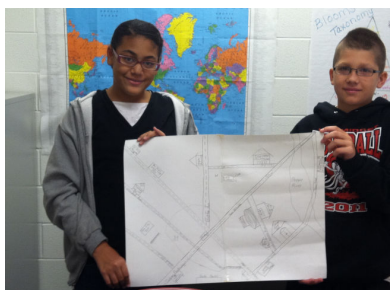


3rd & 4th Graders: In the Gifted Reading classes, the 3rd & 4th graders explored Native American Folktales. They read a variety of different folktales ranging from creation stories to “why” stories and even some stories that taught lessons. These stories came from the Blackfeet Indians, the Cherokee Indians, the Choctaw Indians, and the Pueblo Indians, to name a few. Students were involved in making “leather” onto which they illustrated original stories. They learned how to depict their stories in just a few pictures, as many Native Americans did in the past. They got to express their creativity through writing “why stories”, such as “Why wolves howl at the moon”,

“Why Spiders have fangs”, and “Why Owls come out at Night”. The students then shared their stories with other classrooms! One thing the students learned was how different tribes often had similar stories, even if they lived far away from each other. We read “The Turkey and the Terrapin” and “The Race of the Tails”, and compared and contrasted these two folktales. We even compared them to the classic Aesop’s fable, “The Tortoise and the Hare”. Students were fascinated to see how a story could take so many different directions, but teach a similar lesson.



In the Gifted Social Studies classes, the students dove into Government. They learned firsthand the differences between a dictatorship and a democracy. They did skits depicting why rules are important. Believe it or not, they LIKE having rules!! They closely examined the Ohio Constitution by first reading the “lawyer speak”, and then translating it into “kid speak”. They learned the roles of the three branches of government. Then they compared the Ohio Constitution to the United States Constitution. They explored a website created by the U.S. Government Printing Office. By the end of the nine weeks, these students were experts on the democratic process!



5th & 6th graders: In the 5th & 6th grade Gifted Reading classes, students worked on a unit involving Food! They read two different biographies about Milton Hershey, and compared/contrasted them. Being inspired by Milton Hershey’s town, Hershey, Pennsylvania, students created their own towns with a food theme. They had to be creative with their street names, buildings, etc. They turned these designs into either a detailed map or a three-dimensional model of their towns. One of the students’ favorite activities was “The Great Chocolate Caper”. They had to discover who stole the chocolate recipe, and why! This helped improve their logical reasoning and

provided students with opportunities to decipher codes, determine motives, rule out suspects, and eventually discover the culprit! As culminating activities, students got to choose from a “menu” of Reading and Writing activities. Many students chose to conduct surveys regarding favorite foods, others created a restaurant and menu. Some students evaluated food websites, while others created wacky ice cream or pie flavors inspired by the poetry of Jack Prelutsky. All in all, it was a very appetizing unit!

For Social Studies, the students worked on two different Economics concepts: world trade, and trade-offs/opportunity costs. During the world trade activities, students conducted a survey as to where shirts were produced. After determining



the top 5 countries from their survey results, students then compared those countries' gross domestic products and determined what type of geographic factors would impact their ability to trade. Students also did a trading simulation called Hot Lava Island. Then it was on to trade-offs and opportunity. They had to work through several problem situations and determine options and what they would have to give up if they chose certain ones. Mrs. Honaker read a story called Grandma Essie's Covered Wagon.

It was about a girl named Essie who lived in the early 1900s. They traveled by covered wagon across several states, and made several moves because of economic factors such as poverty, economic opportunity, etc. Students then chose 3 activities from a tic-tac-toe dealing with trade-offs and the Grandma Essie story.