

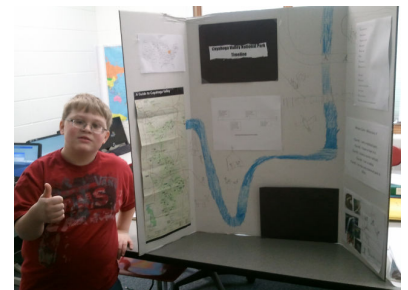
# Gifted Update

April 2011

The end of the year is always a busy time in our Gifted classrooms! Since our last update, the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies students have completed their National Park Presentations (see accompanying pictures). Each student picked a different National Park to research. They filled out graphic organizers with their information, and then used that information to write poems, tv commercials, journal entries, and some even designed 3-D models of their parks. The culminating project was to complete a tri-fold display board with their information, and then these were presented in front of a real-world audience. I had multiple comments from other teachers and students about how much they had learned from listening to these wonderful presentations!!! Those students in my 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Reading classes also worked on an in-depth poetry unit. They wrote several different types of poetry including acrostics, limericks, haiku, color poems, and alliteration (to name a few). We were privileged to get to share our poems with other classrooms in our respective schools!

The last nine weeks, we will be studying tsunamis in Science and working on Hands-On Equations in Math. I bet you never realized that 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders could do algebra?!!! With the help of a manipulatives kit, that is exactly what we are doing in our gifted classroom!

My 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders worked on point of view and the Holocaust in Reading. We examined fairy tales told from a different character's point of view, and then tried our hand at writing one of them. The results were creative and so much fun to read! We read true survivor stories for our Holocaust section, along with reading The Boy in the Striped Pajamas. In Social Studies, we examined advertising strategies and propaganda techniques. This tied in wonderfully with our point of view/Holocaust unit!



The last nine weeks, we are doing Independent Science Projects. Students got to pick their topic, and go with it as long as it related to Science in some way. We have previously worked on the steps of the Scientific Method, so this was their opportunity to put them into practice! I am anxiously awaiting their final projects!!! In Math, we are doing a unit on the Stock Market. Students were very excited to learn about this very real-world math application. At the end of the unit, we will see how well they do in our simulated Stock Market Game. Whose net worth will be the highest???

One event that my 6<sup>th</sup> graders look forward to every year is our annual S.P.A.R.K. (Students Paving Avenues to Researching Knowledge) field trip. This field trip allows them to interact with other gifted 6<sup>th</sup> graders in Hardin County, while utilizing their creative and critical thinking skills. We went to the Mazza Museum which is located on the University of Findlay. This field trip is always a terrific way to end their gifted elementary experience, and one that gives students lasting memories and new-found friendships.

