

# Gifted Update

February 2011



The past few months have been busy ones in the gifted classrooms at Hardin Northern, Ridgemont, and Upper Scioto Valley Schools. My 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders shifted their focus to math and science. In Science, we did a simulation entitled "S.O.S." in which we had to determine the location of a missing family based on clues we retrieved from a message in a bottle. We learned all about ocean currents, density and salinity. We also had to research to find out where certain animals, plants, and natural resources were found in order to narrow down the search area. Thankfully, all groups were able to successfully determine where their family was stranded, and send a

search and rescue mission to rescue the family! In our Math class, we did a simulation called "Project Polaris" dealing with measurement and estimation. Students were

divided into teams and they had to use their estimation skills in several missions while exploring outer space. They also had to avoid being tripped up by Dastardly Derek, the villain who tried to foil their attempts to be accurate measurers. At the end of the unit, teams worked together to build a 3-dimensional space station using different shaped pieces of construction paper. The pictures show their finished projects! They did an awesome job!!



In my 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes, we also transitioned to math and science. In Science, we really focused on learning the steps of the Scientific Method. We did experiments

together and learned how to write a hypothesis, analyze the results, and draw our conclusions. We are looking forward to using these skills in an independent Science project the fourth nine weeks. In Math, students worked in teams in a competitive algebra simulation. They had to race to complete algebra chains – which are algebra problems where one takes the answer from problem #1 and plugs it in to problem #2.

Accuracy was crucial, since a mistake in one problem caused mistakes in all the following problems! Students learned how to work together to solve these problems. They then had to work their way through mazes using the points they had earned from the algebra chain competition. As a culminating project, students created 3-dimensional closed box marble mazes. This was a huge hit with the students!!



At USV, my 6<sup>th</sup> grade reading inclusion students worked on several novel units. We read The Giver, Where the Red Fern Grows, and Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of N.I.M.H. We focused on vocabulary, characterization, and theme. Students work with me two days a week, and then continue to work on their projects with their classroom teacher the other days.