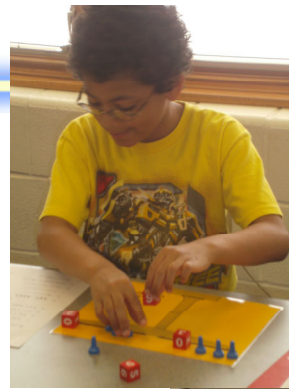


# Gifted Update

## Great Minds at Work – What’s going on in the Gifted Classrooms

June 2011

Our year came to a terrific finish in the Gifted classrooms of Hardin Northern, Ridgemont, and Upper Scioto Valley schools! During the last 9 weeks, the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders had the opportunity to learn to solve algebraic expressions and equations in the gifted math class. Through the use of manipulatives, they learned hands-on how to balance equations and solve for  $x$ . They learned “legal moves” which allowed them to simplify the equation. It was so exciting to see the sense of accomplishment on their faces at the end of each lesson!



The 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Science unit this 9 weeks was a study of Tsunamis. We explored how tsunamis are formed and learned many interesting facts about tsunamis. We did experiments with water, rocks, and a slinky to understand wave patterns. We were able to examine before & after pictures of the recent tsunami destruction in Japan which really brought this unit to life for the students. Finally, the students designed an improved Tsunami Warning System to help lower the devastating loss of life that can result when a tsunami hits.

At Hardin Northern and Ridgemont, my 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade math students were engrossed in a unit about the Stock Market. We learned all about wise investing, dividends, commissions, profits, losses, and much more. At the end of the unit, students were given pretend money to invest in fictitious companies (J.P. Nickel, Mrs. Gooney’s Candies, etc.). We read early and late edition newspaper articles that gave details about world events that could possibly impact a company’s profits. Students gained experience in both buying and selling stocks. At the conclusion of the simulation, they had to figure out their “net worth”. Like in real life, some students lost money, while others turned a nice profit. All students seemed to really enjoy this experience.

The 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Science classes worked diligently on Independent Science Projects. These projects could be on any topic the students chose as long as it could be solved through a scientific experiment. We had projects ranging from the effects of different fertilizers on plant growth to how your heart works in differing temperatures to the chemical formulas of baking soda and vinegar and why they react to one another. Students presented these projects in front of 6<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms and judges. They were very well received!



At USV, the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Independent Study project revolved around the Middle Ages. We built a 3-dimensional castle (see accompanying picture!), learned about feudalism, and what it would be like to grow up during medieval times.

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade Reading students at USV worked on several novels, including Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry and Blood on the River. Students also did a point of view unit. They wrote and illustrated familiar fairy tales from a different character’s perspective. The resulting stories were quite creative and often very humorous! ☺ 6<sup>th</sup> grade students also worked on writing in a graphic novel format during this class. These stories were used as their book for the Hardin County Young Authors Conference.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the privilege of getting to work with these Gifted students this year. I have seen minds stretched, imaginations ignited, and challenges conquered. Thanks for a fantastic year!!

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