

Gifted Update

October 2010

This year has gotten off to a terrific start in the Gifted classes at Hardin Northern, Ridgemont, and Upper Scioto Valley! The 3rd-4th grade Reading classes have been working on a unit entitled "The 5 Traits of Competent Kids". We explored the character traits of Above Average Ability, Creativity, Task Commitment, Courage and Caring. Some of our activities included writing and starring in candy bar commercials (as seen in some of the accompanying pictures) to exhibit our creativity, giving speeches during our Courage day, and discovering what motivates us, to name a few. Hopefully, the students will continue developing these character traits long after this unit concludes!



In our 3rd-4th Social Studies unit, we have been experiencing what it is like to be pilots and navigators in a flight race across an imaginary continent. We increased our map reading skills including finding latitude and longitude, reading a map legend, and using a linear scale to determine distance. "Fate Cards" kept us on our toes, sometimes causing us to rewrite our Flight plans due to tornadoes, thunderstorms, and even stowaways! We had to show our creativity and attention to detail while writing about our flight adventures in a daily diary entry.

5th/6th Reading students at Hardin Northern and Ridgemont explored Greek mythology. After learning about several Greek myths, we tried our hands at creating our own original myths and comic strips featuring a mythological hero. We also came to realize how many of our common English words have Greek origins. We concluded our unit by writing and illustrating a newspaper called *The Mythology Messenger* highlighting one of their favorite myths.



5th/6th Social Studies classes spent this nine weeks comparing and contrasting two ancient societies - Athens and Sparta. We examined these cultures' class structures, gender roles, beliefs, traditions, and legacies. We displayed our newfound knowledge by writing true/false, fill in the blank, and multiple choice questions. At the end of the unit, we had a quiz show competition using these student-written questions. We all came to the consensus that cooperation beats conflict at all times, but that the ideal society would probably be a blending of these two societies we studied.

At USV, 5th/6th grade math students began working in teams on the Algebra Mystery Maze. Teams compete to accurately complete algebra chains in order to earn centimeters to use while navigating mazes. We will continue working in this unit during the next 9 weeks as well.

6th grade Reading at USV this year is in an inclusionary setting. Both the classroom teacher and the Gifted Intervention Specialist work together to provide differentiated assignments for our identified students. We have read two novels this nine weeks: Hatchet and A Wrinkle in Time. Activities have included making book jackets, creating original crossword puzzles using vocabulary words, and Reading Response journals.

