



December

Waite Park
Community School
Room 104

December 2017

Ms. Monson's Classroom Newsletter

Reading

In Unit 3, we are reading and comparing selections about plants and animals to understand how living things get what they need in their habitats. The overlapping essential question is, "How do living things get what they need to survive?"



We've been working on animal reports. Penguins were our first topic, where everyone found facts from our annotation books and wrote reports. After that, we chose animals of interest and have found facts about them from other sources. Understanding the difference between *fact* and *opinion* has been a topic of discussion.

Short Read 1

Remember to annotate as you read!

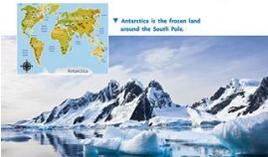
The Coldest Place on Earth

1. **Fact:** Covered by a thick blanket of snow and ice that never melts, Antarctica is the coldest, windiest, and emptiest place on Earth. Its barren landscape has no trees and few plants. Some people visit, but none live there. Only a few tough animals can survive Antarctica's harsh winters. One of them is an amazing bird.

2. **Fact:** Antarctica is the frozen land around the South Pole.

3. **Fact:** Meet the emperor penguin! These barrel-shaped birds can't fly. They are too heavy and their wings are too short. They can't walk too well, either. These penguins spend most of their lives in the freezing-cold sea. A thick layer of blubber, or fat, and shiny feathers act like a heavy, waterproof jacket.

4. **Fact:** The penguin find fish to eat in the sea.




Writing

During our Writers' Workshop, we continue with daily journal writing. In these entries, we experiment with different genres and use writing to tell others about what we're thinking. We ask and answer questions about these short pieces.

Math

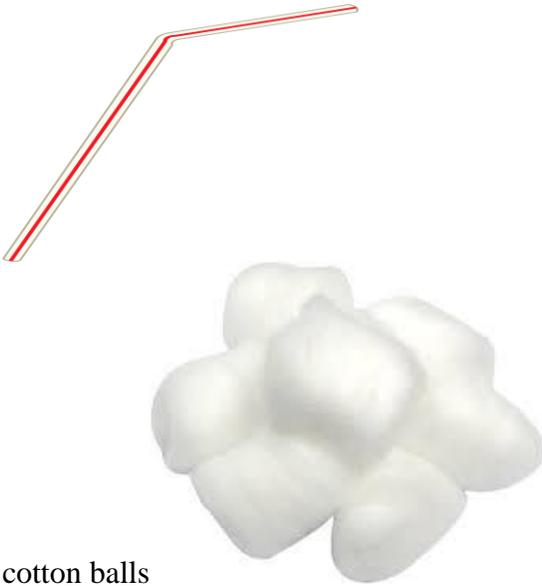
We are writing equations that represent a story. When we read the word problem, we determine what the question is (or what we are trying to solve) and start by writing out the answer sentence. This helps us organize our thinking and we can more efficiently figure out what is unknown. We use a box to represent the unknown number. Students also compare data and solve problems on graphs with numbers up to 100.

Social Studies

In our economics unit, we have been discussing goals and what steps may be necessary to achieve goals. A Junior Achievement leader taught lessons that tied directly to our learning targets. We did everything from inventing a new donut flavor, to producing donuts and thinking about what goes into production, and the economics of that kind of endeavor. We looked at opportunities and opportunity costs for pursuing goals.

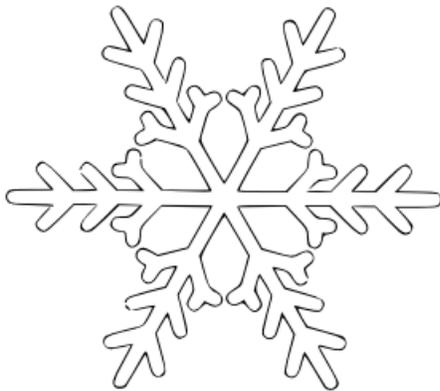
Science

How does air interact with objects? We explore this question as students participate in a variety of experiments using straws



cotton balls
and other fun stuff!

*Have a wonderful
winter break!*



2nd Quarter Specialist Schedule

2:30 – 3:25

Monday

P.E. with Ms. Tollefson

Tuesday

Art with Ms. Hubert

Wednesday

Media/Technology with Ms. McEathron

Thursday

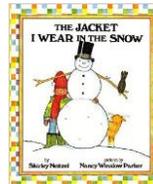
Music with Mr. Thomas

Friday

P.E. with Ms. Tollefson

Upcoming Events

Winter Break – We created a class poster depicting “winter.” This piece ties into our social studies standard about understanding the continuation of time, such as the progression of seasons. We used this book as a reminder of how to dress during these chilly temperatures.



No school 12/23/17-1/7/18
Classes Resume January 8, 2018

