



6-1 TEAM NEWS

English Language Arts

We are continuing with our focus on the “Reading Non-Fiction” unit. We are learning about non-fiction reading strategies. The questions that guide our learning are:

1. When our interests make us curious about a topic, how do we learn more about it?
2. How do capable readers make sense of nonfiction text?
3. How do responsible readers judge the accuracy of nonfiction text?
4. How do we read nonfiction text to clarify what we personally agree and disagree with?

Please remind your child to read each school night for 30 minutes.

Math

Our mathematicians will be focusing on the following learning targets:

- *explaining how a ratio is a comparison of two quantities;
- *identifying a unit rate;
- *changing a ratio to a unit rate;
- *making a table of equivalent ratios;
- *plotting ratios from a table on a coordinate plane.

Social Studies

Much of December and January will be spent studying Europe including Russia. We will compare and contrast the physical geography, governments, economies, and cultural influences of European countries. We look forward to investigating the influence of Europe and other regions of the world. Our geographers will analyze Russia and its evolution to the federation it is today. While acquiring this new knowledge, students will connect to their prior knowledge.

Science

December will find 6-1 scientists beginning our Living Things/Biology Unit. Students will be introduced to the characteristics of living things and how organisms are classified. Vocabulary will play a big part in the introduction of this unit. Students will make a set of flashcards and will be asked to review the terms and class information/notes/notebook nightly to help with understanding so they can be an effective participant in class discussions and activities. Students may need help in establishing a study routine that works best for them at home (right after school, after a snack, or right before bedtime). It is crucial that the students complete their homework at home as this portion of our curriculum tends to be completely new to the majority of sixth graders.

Post-holiday break, biology will continue. Students will take a look at bacteria, learning that most bacteria on earth is helpful, though some can cause us harm. We will use microscopes to study and observe unicellular organisms: ameobas, parameciums, and euglenoids. The Audubon Society will also be visiting again for a great lesson on photosynthesis and the chemistry behind it. Thank you in advance for your support at home as we move into new territory in our curriculum.