

## Newsletter

10/1/18- 10/12/18

**Illinois exploration:** This week we made butter! The kids learned how to make butter using heavy cream and a jar. It was fun seeing their expressions when they opened the jar filled with homemade butter. The students were able to try the butter spread on a graham cracker. The students were used some artifacts from the 1800's like a handheld coffee grinder that broke down the coffee beans! ~We used the fresh ground coffee on Friday at Brew HaHa!.



**Novel~ Pre Reading Activities:** Before we started our classroom novel, Huckleberry Finn, the students and I studied the famous author, Mark Twain. We were presently surprised to learn so much about his life pre and post Civil war. Based on our new knowledge of Mark Twain's life, the students decided to create a timeline from the years 1858-1870. These are the pre through post years of the Civil War. Using our timeline while reading the novel will help us better understand the United States during this time period. The timeline also includes important dates and events that took place in Illinois from 1858-1870. We will continue to expand our timeline both ways from 1818 to present day.

The students were introduced to some 19th century reforms such as, women's suffrage, educational reform, political, utopian societies, and prison/ asylum reforms. By digging into these reforms the students are getting a better understanding of the struggles and daily lives of some of the people during this period. They are able to understand and break down why people fought for the reforms (the goals) and the outcomes. ~ We will also be writing a persuasive essay on the reforms with the help of Mr. Foti.



**Willis Tower:** Last week the students and I were able to experience our city from new heights! Ask your child about their experience and how many of themselves (in feet) it would take to reach the top :)

**Math~** On Thursday, we were once again able to find a connection from our exploration to the math concepts in our Scholastic Math. “ Kids for Change” showed a young girl named Ayanna Najuma who stood up against segregation in her hometown of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma in 1958. The objective of this article was for the students to write and evaluate algebraic expressions, given specific variables for unknown quantities, about kids in history who have fought to change policies.

**Art**~ The students were given the opportunity to be apart of a gallery walk. On Thursday, I created a gallery walk for the students in our hallways. The students roamed the halls looking at each image and observing each artists efforts in creating a masterpiece. The students later discussed their findings and expressed how each image made them feel. They were also able to look at the inspiration and innovation article that showed how art and science have gone hand in hand for more than 500 years. The article showed how Leonardo da Vinci’s work has now come to life in the form of a bionic robot that can fly!

~ **The A in STEAM stands for Art & Design!** It is very important that the students are aware of how important and influential art is. Art plays a large role in the creative process from architecture to our healthcare advances, science/ technology, and even to the shoes that the students are wearing! The kids took this to the next level by putting their creative to work and created their own shoe designs. We will continue our designs and looking at them with our entrepreneur hats on! ~where to sell, who the customer is, media, pricing, etc.



Hope you have a great weekend,  
Ms. Alexandra

~ “If you tell the truth you do not need a good memory!”  
— **Mark Twain, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn**