

Eugene Brooks Intermediate School

December Newsletter

2018



The Principal's Corner- Mr. Lynch

I'd like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

We had a few special visitors over the past month. Assemblywoman Didi Barrett and Senator Sue Serino were both very impressed with our students, staff, and programs at Webutuck. I heard comments such as, "Wow, I wish I was a student here", and, " This district is definitely leading the way with blended learning". Each of them used VR in Mr. Corbett's room, watched blended instruction in



Mrs. Brennie's and Mrs. Conway's rooms, observed robotics in Mrs. Dietter-Smith's room, tried out our piano lab with our students, Mr. Wiener, and Mr. Bradley in our music room, received a tour of Mrs. Murphy's Maker Space in our library, and were able to see Mrs. Martin in action teaching a nearpod lesson. It was nice to receive positive feedback and watch our students in action!

I hope each of you are able to disconnect and spend some quality time with your family over the break. I look forward to a wonderful 2019!

Habit Help

Habit 3: Put First Things First

Do you ever feel like you have too much to do and not enough time?

What do you do when you have too much to do and not enough time?

Is it possible to do it all?

Understanding the Habit

Someone who puts first things first says, "I spend time on things that are most important. This means I say no to things I know I shouldn't do. I set priorities, make a schedule, and follow a plan. I am disciplined and organized."

Future skills that can be learned by putting first things first:

- 1 Demonstrate time management skills
- 2 Cultivate a strong work ethic, flexibility, and adaptability
- 3 Develop intrapersonal skills of self-management
- 4 Be accountable and responsible for actions and results
- 5 Begin to cultivate analytical skills

"He who fails to plan, plans to fail"

Parent/Child Activities

- Create a list of things that your child needs to accomplish throughout the week. With your child, rank the tasks by importance. Rewrite the list in order and post it by the calendar or someplace that will be seen throughout the week.
- Set goals as a family
- Discuss with your child what he/she thinks is his/her biggest time waster and what to do about it.

- Protect family time each week and make traditions.

Holiday Breakfast Fun!

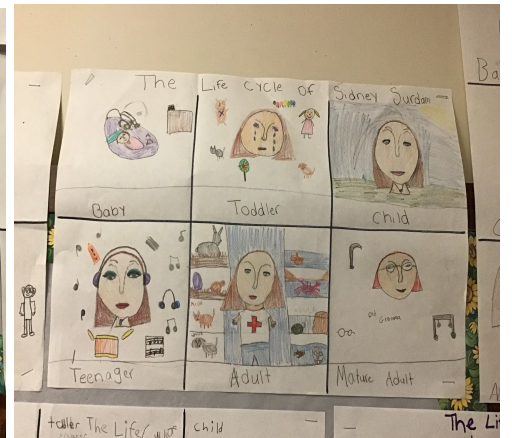
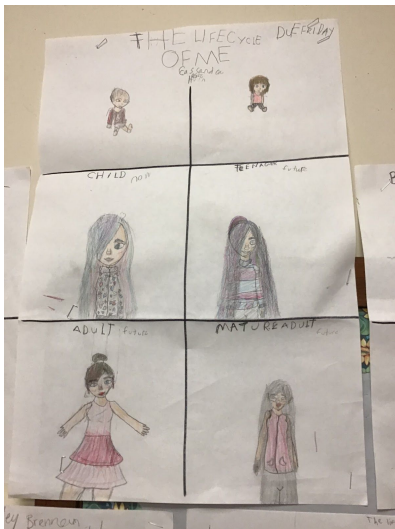
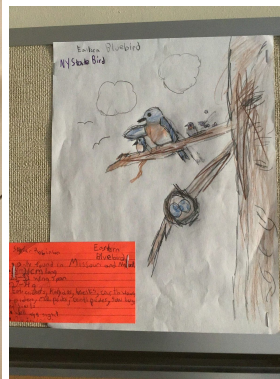
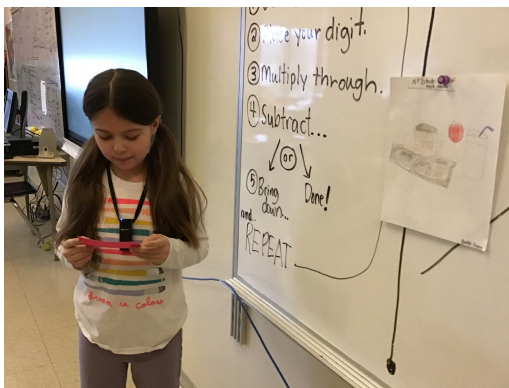


General Announcements

- Please remind your children to bring a winter jacket to lunch with them! We do have outside recess after lunch, and we go out if it is above 20 degrees and not raining or snowing.

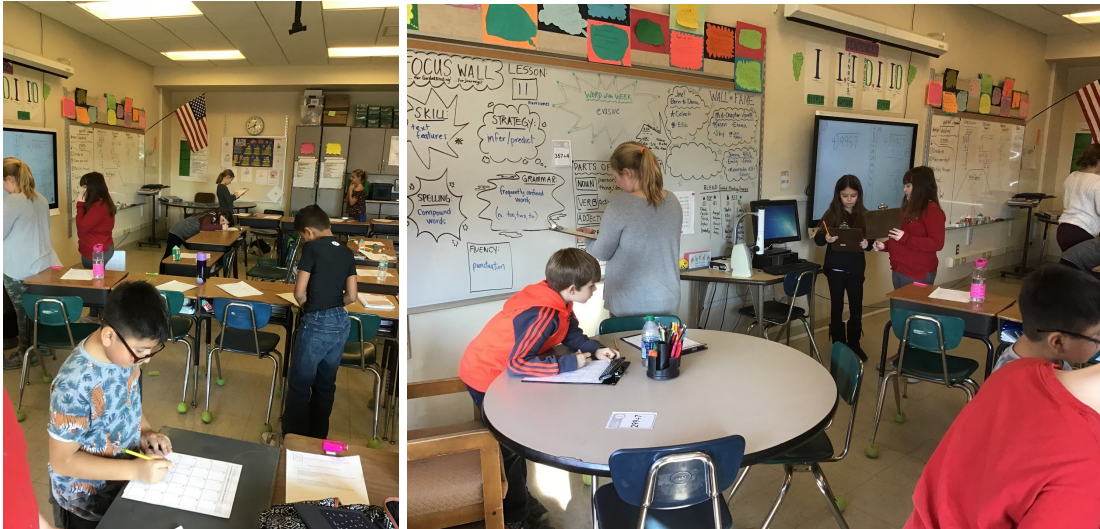
Grade Level Updates

4th Grade:



- Life Cycle projects were created at the end of the Animal and Plant unit- we have some aspiring lawyers and veterinarians in the group! It's funny to see what the future looks like in everyone's eyes...

- Fourth graders, Jason Fuisz and Jordan Hotaling were recently named "Smart Cookies" by Mrs. Murphy for mastering their addition, subtraction, and multiplication facts! Several other students are well on their way to this achievement. Practicing fact fluency at home is a great way to help this process along!
- We played Division SCOOT in class for some good math practice:

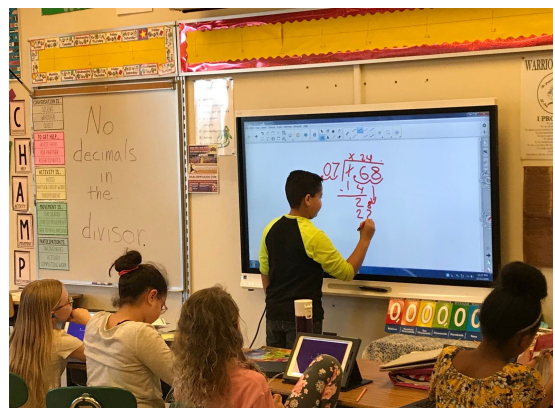


5th Grade:

- In Ms. Simon's Science class students are working on how plants and animals grow and reproduce. Students are growing bean plants and watching the germination process. In Social Studies we are learning about explorers and the Columbian Exchange. Students just completed wonderful research projects of various explorers!



- In Mr. Sullivan's Math Class students are learning various strategies related to dividing with decimals. From mental math, to division algorithms, dividing with models, and everything in between. Students are



discovering new ways to separate fractions of wholes into equal groups.

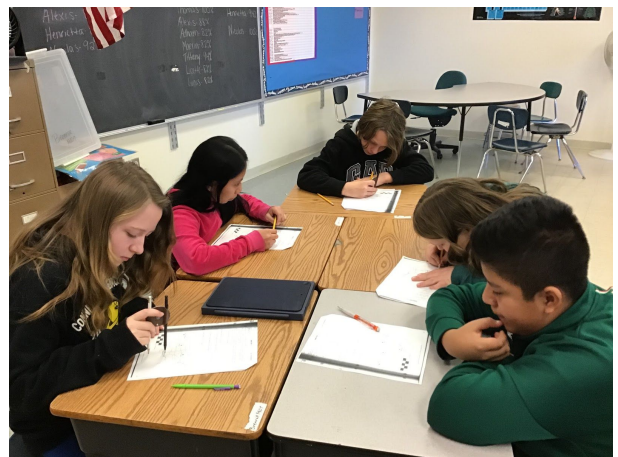
- In Mr. Butland's English Language Arts Classes, our students are diving into *The Wonderful World of the Tree Kangaroo* as they join the quest to solve the mystery as to why these unique creatures are currently endangered. Additionally, we are "breaking down" words to better understand how intonation, stressing (out) syllables, prefixes and suffixes can ultimately change a word's meaning.
- During Blend periods with Ms. Simon and Mrs. Murphy, twelve students have earned ice cream treats by showing mastery of multiplication facts in two minutes or less! Students who have not yet completed this task should be practicing multiplication facts at home whenever possible.

6th Grade:

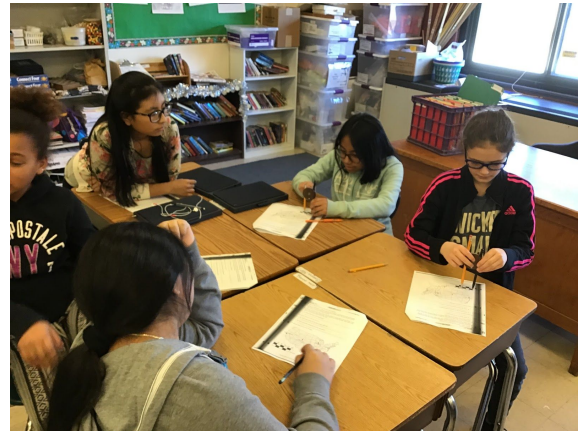
- Students will be taking their second diagnostic test in January. We hope to see great growth from the Fall test to our Winter test. After testing, we will again sit with each student and conference regarding their scores.
- Please encourage your sixth grader to get organized over the break. Ask them to clean out and organize binders and book bags. It will help them to get a fresh start in the New Year!

Math/Science-Mrs. Brennie:

- Our 6th Graders just finished up their first Go Math book (1 of 2) and took their test on Measurement. The next chapter is on expressions, which is a huge chunk of our 6th grade curriculum.
- Overall, we are doing well with our i-Ready lessons. We were in the lead the whole time for our 4-8 i-Ready contest for the most lessons completed, but lost out the last week to 5th grade.
- There will be no homework over the break, but of course, if anyone is looking to do anything, i-Ready is always an option.
- In science we are wrapping up our Plate Tectonics unit. We are finishing with a lab on studying seismograph readings to determine the epicenter of an earthquake.



- In science class, we will be doing the readings together since they are challenging. After we complete a reading, **ALL** student will be required to answer questions on Google Forms based on the reading. I will be grading these and putting them in as a homework grade. We have done a few of these, and many students forget to complete the questions. Please check Parent Portal for updated grades, and if you see a zero for a science assignment, it's because they did not answer their questions.



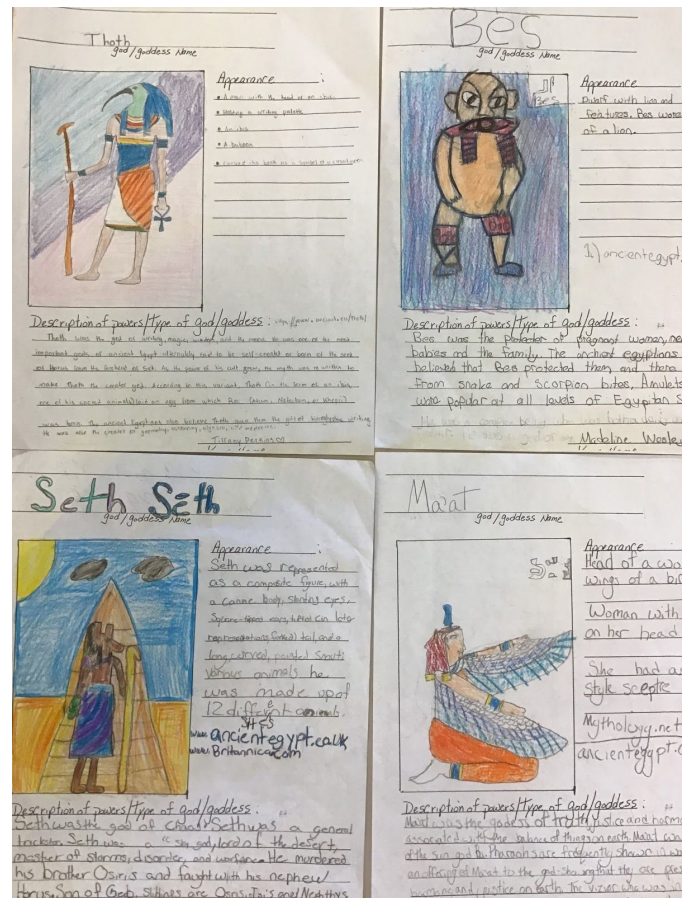
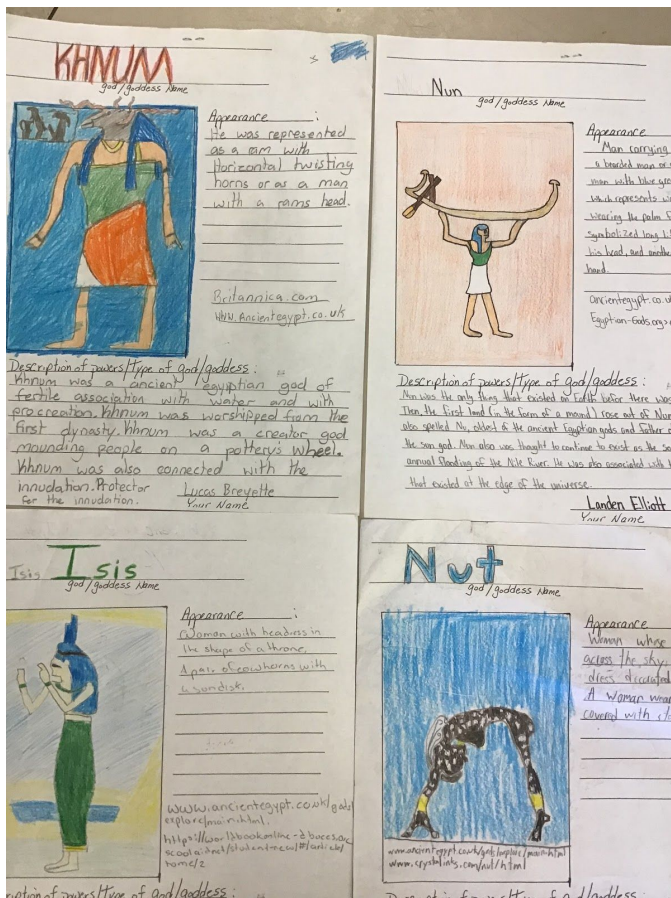
- After the break we will be focusing on Earth's Surface Systems, which includes Erosion and Deposition.

ELA- Mrs. Conway:

- I Ready work is going well. Students are beginning to learn the value of working on their iReady Reading regularly, both in class and at home. Over the break, please encourage your child to work on iReady Reading to keep their skills sharp. Remember that we will be having another iReady diagnostic in January.
- In ELA, students are working on a variety of writing pieces including Procedural Essays, Argumentative Essays, and Compare and Contrast Essays.
- The texts we are reading and studying in Unit 3 center around the topic of "Exploring the Limits" and include an excerpt from the biography about the explorer, Matthew Henson.
- Vocabulary work is critical to building reading skills, so each week (usually) students have new vocabulary words to work with.
- We will continue to build students grammar skills, so please encourage your child to do their homework each night, to help them build their literacy skills.
- Ask your child about the WoW or "Word of the Week"! Each week we study and discuss our new word, and endeavor to learn the meaning of the word, part of speech, synonyms and antonyms, as well as how to use the word in a sentence.

Social Studies- Mrs. Conway:

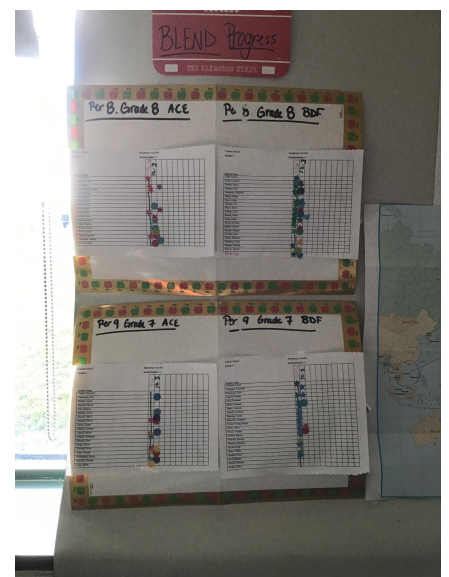
- We just completed our study of Ancient Egypt (Part of River Valley Civilizations). As a culminating activity students chose an Ancient Egyptian god or goddess to research. The last piece of the activity was to draw a picture of their god or goddess. It was a fun learning experience for all!



- Currently we are beginning a unit on Classical Civilizations. Ancient Rome, Ancient Greece, and Ancient China are the classical civilizations we are learning about.
- Also included in this Unit of study will be lessons on types of government, ancient religions, as well as information on how a civilization is determined to be "classical".

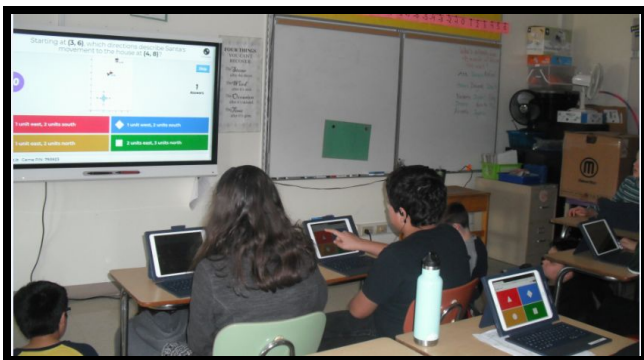
7th Grade:

- In Miss G.'s 7th grade BLEND class we are continuing to strive to meet expectations and obtain 45 minutes of inready time per week. Weekly conferences are happening in class. When students reach the expectation, they are expected to use NoRedInk. Take a look at our sticker charts which are visible ways to show data and growth! Mrs. Hoke is helping us keep our portfolios organized in terms of logging our daily progress and the Word of the

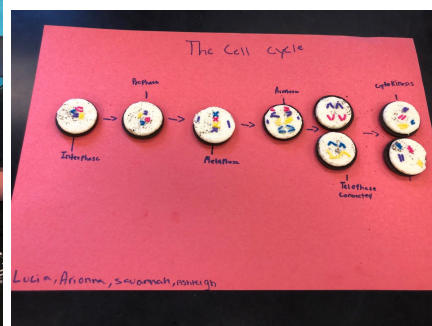


Week chart. Mrs. Nethercott's class has started reading *Lyddie*.

- Math classes have been working on recognizing proportional relationships, creating tables of the relationships, and graphing the relationships. Some of the students' favorite proportional relationships so far have been *amount of pay per hour* and *how many people can ride in a roller coaster car*. In Blend class, students are working on a variety of skills. They have a little time to complete online i-Ready lessons. Students in blend are also working on an extended lesson called "Squarea" that teaches them about measuring applications. Of course, they have also had opportunities to put their new knowledge to the test with fun competitions such as Kahoot (shown in the photo below).



- In science class, students were learning about cell division. What a better way to learn about mitosis than with using Oreo cookies (for the cells/cytoplasm) and sprinkles (for the chromosomes)! Now we have moved onto the Genetics Unit.



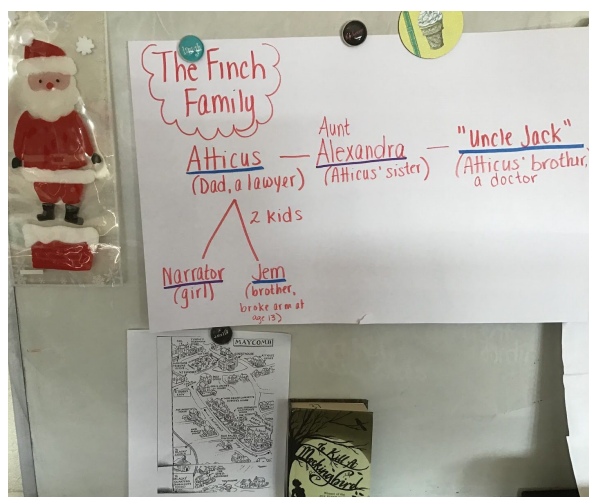
8th Grade:

- Students in Miss G.'s and Mrs. Nethercott's ELA classes have started reading *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The audio is on Miss G's website in addition to many other resources. Please keep up with this book! If you are absent check my website for what you missed. Encourage nightly IR, please! In the picture below you will see a

picture of the book, a map of the town that the students got for their notes on the first day we started this book, and the chart Ms. Quartarano is creating for us! Here is a link to the audio (on my website).

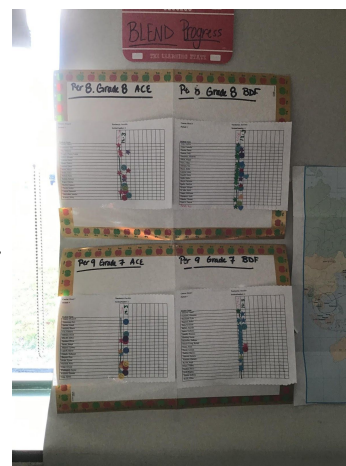
<http://esl-bits.net/ESL.English.Learning.Audiobooks/Mockingbird/01/default.htm>

Happy Holidays! Hope this picture puts a smile on your face! Miss G.

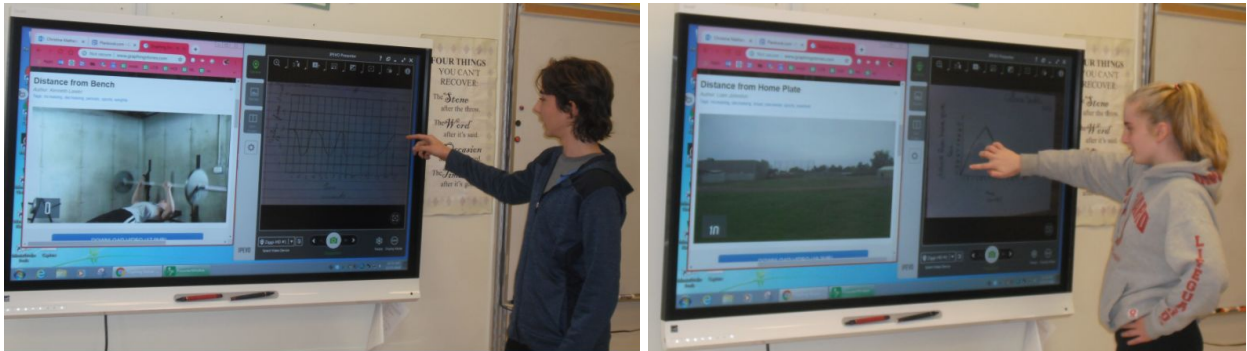


(Class chart Ms. Quartarano is helping us with in Miss G.'s ELA8 classes).

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- Math 8 classes are nearly finished with rate of change/slope lessons. They have learned the slope equation and how to apply it to real life scenarios. In addition, students have enjoyed creating and interpreting story graphs. One of their favorites was a set of graphs in which two students' science projects were compared. One student worked steadily throughout the given



time and one procrastinated until the last week. Much discussion ensued the day we looked at those graphs!



- In science class students are learning about solubility and studied how certain factors, such as particle size and solvent temperature, affect solubility rates. We timed the rate of dissolving of sugar- cube vs. crushed, in either cold or hot water. Students also made concentrated vs. diluted solutions of lemonade during another lab.



- In 8th Grade Accelerated Biology lab students have been learning proper use of the microscopes, how to prepare specimens for viewing, as well as examining plant and animals cells under magnification. In lecture, students have been learning how specialized cell structures work together to maintain homeostasis, and how materials move in and out of cells through passive and active transport.



SPECIALS:

Music:

- Congratulations to our Webutuck Music Warriors on fine performances this concert season and thank you to everyone that came out to support us! We can't do what we do without you!
- It was great to have NYS Senator Sue Serino and Assemblywoman Didi Barrett visit our Music Lab on a tour of technology in Webutuck. We hope they stop by again. If you're interested in visiting the Music Lab please contact Mr. Wiener to make arrangements.
- We close our Musical 2018 with the WHS Music Warriors performing for EBIS students at the Holiday Breakfast. Always a treat! Have a great vacation and a happy, healthy and musical 2019. We look forward to seeing you in the new year.



Spanish:

8th-grade Spanish students are moving along well in our clothing and shopping unit. We have learned clothing words, ways to ask and say how much things cost as well as describing how clothes fit. We have been using different apps on our iPads such as Duolingo and Quizlet.

7th grade Spanish students just finished up all our beginning/base material. Students took an exam on everything we have learned so far this year! Now we are onto learning verbs and expressing our likes and dislikes in Spanish. ¿Qué te gusta hacer?

Visual Arts:

Students in 7th grade still exploring Tinting/Shading in different values by painting landscapes or cityscapes in one Monochromatic Painting. Tint is where the artist slowly adds pigment or color to white to create tint, and Shade is using the pigment or color and slowly adding black to get darker tones.

Students in 4th-6th grade are also learning about landscapes by painting with watercolors using the techniques experimented with and that a landscape has to have a foreground, middle, and background.



Mental Health:

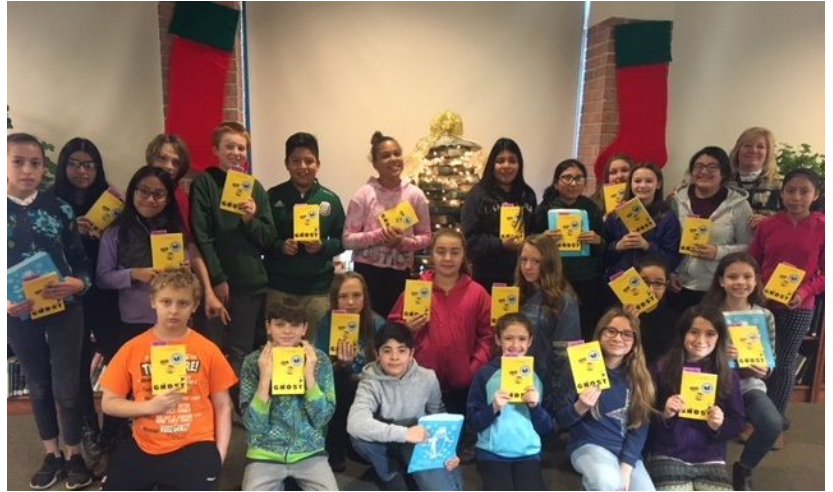
Suite 360 continued this month for all students in grades 4-8. The topic was impulse control. Some of the points included helping students learn what being on and off task looks like and what strategies they could use to help control the choices they make.



- *6th graders are using their iPads to follow along with the lesson.*

Library Media Center:

This week the 6th graders at Eugene Brooks Middle School received a gift from a perfect stranger. Jason Reynolds, author, poet and National Book Finalist, donated 100 copies of his award winning young adult book, *Ghost*, to the community. Oblong books reached out to our library media



specialist, Mrs. Murphy, to see if we were interested in sharing these books with our students. The books were accepted and given to our students pictured below. Before receiving the books, the students saw a video trailer as well as an interview with the author. Happy reading during this holiday season and to all a good book!



Athletics:

Winter sports

Winter sports have begun. Come out and support our Boys and Girls Basketball teams. You can find game schedules on our Athletic Website. Click on the game schedule link and look up

schedules by specific teams. SIGN UP and SUBSCRIBE to game change notification by receiving notification via text or email.

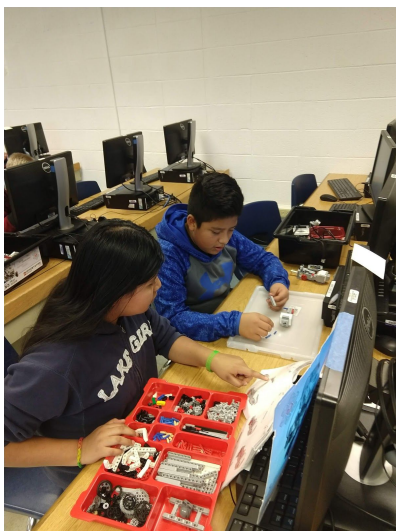
5th Grade Computer Technology:



To celebrate Computer Science Education Week (December 3-9), our computer technology class explored new Hour of Code activities on www.code.org.

6th Grade Robotics:

There are many benefits to building and programming with Lego Mindstorms EV3 Robots. Students learn core principles of Computer Engineering (coding and programming) and Civil/Mechanical Engineering (designing and building). Sixth graders are required to build their own robot following the included Mindstorms EV3 building instructions.



Eight additional educational benefits of building with Legos include:

- promotes fine motor skills
- encourages teamwork
- improves creativity
- develops problem-solving and mathematical thinking
- improves communication skills. ...
- develops persistence. ...
- improves self-esteem. ...
- develops lateral thinking and planning skills.

<https://www.tsc.nsw.edu.au/tscnews/eight-educational-benefits-of-playing-with-lego>

5th and 6th Grade Home and Careers:



Students in grade 5 learned how to sew buttons. The students in grade 6 participated in a drop biscuit lab to demonstrate the importance of measuring accurately. The students made 2 batches of biscuits. One batch required the students to guess the amount of each ingredient and the other batch was measured correctly. It was fun to see how the "guess" batch (left) turned out.