



# Southwest Elementary School Gifted Education News

January 2018



## Welcome!

We are having a **GREAT** school year so far! Your gifted student is busy and learning many new and exciting things. The first two nine weeks of school flew by! I hope everyone had a wonderful Winter break with their family and friends.

The purpose of this newsletter is to share some of the highlights in each grade level. As always, if you ever have any specific concerns, please feel free to contact your child's gifted resource teacher. We are available by e-mail or phone.

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## First Grade

Our first graders have done a great job getting acclimated to "gifted" classes. They started the year off with a unit entitled "All About Me" in which we talked about how special and unique we all are. Then they began learning all about plants. They learned about the parts of a plant, how seeds travel, why we need plants, how plants make their food and much more. They had a wonderful time! Beginning the second half of the year, the students will be learning about the Ancient Aztecs, Incas, and Mayan civilizations!



## Second Grade

The second grade students started out the year learning all about Climate and Costal Erosion. They also learned about tangrams and using arrays in math to solve higher order thinking problems. They have now begun a unit on Ancient Greece and have enjoyed learning all about the Greek gods and goddesses as well as the Greek Culture. They learned about Greek foods, clothing, shelter, and contributions.



## Third Grade

Our third grade students are finishing a unit entitled "What a Find!" This unit was designed to introduce students to archaeology in an engaging fashion. Students were required to analyze the problem situation, to determine what information they needed in order to come up with solutions, and then find that information in a variety of ways. They were excited to begin creating their own lost civilizations where they created the language spoken, style of dress, educational system, type of architecture, and economy for their civilization. Their favorite part so far would be excavating I would say!!

We plan to finish up Archeology this month and move into a unit on Ancient Egypt where they will apply what they learned about Archeology in new ways.



## Fourth Grade

Our fourth graders started out the year with a unit on the American Revolution. The students learned the causes and effects of the Revolution as well as how to analyze primary and secondary resources on the Revolution.

We also introduced Genius Hour the first half of the year where students are able to explore, research, and present projects on things that interest them. We are hoping to enter these projects into the State Media Festival this year.

Students in fourth grade will be learning/reviewing how to play chess next month. Chess is a game that requires higher-order thinking skills. To see some of the benefits of learning to play chess, you can read a great article at [http://www.kcfe.eu/sites/default/files/research\\_KCFE.pdf](http://www.kcfe.eu/sites/default/files/research_KCFE.pdf).

In addition, the fourth graders will be using Hands-On-Equations. This is a terrific program that teaches the students how to do algebra in a hands on way. The students have been doing so well with it!



## Google Chromebooks

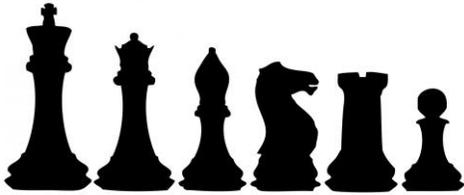
Students in grades 2-5 have been using Chromebooks to conduct their research. At the beginning of the year, the teachers sent home a permission slip for your student to have access to their school e-mail. This allows us to use Google Classroom. Students will be typing their documents, saving their work, and creating presentations using the Google applications. Students can access their "cloud" from any computer which will allow them to work on projects from home, work with classmates on assignments, and/or share them with you. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders are becoming pretty proficient with this. We will be working with our 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders more on this in the weeks to come. It is a learning process, but the students are catching on quickly.

## Fifth Grade

Our fifth graders are completing their Civil War unit of study. They have learned about the causes, the major battles, the important people during the war, and the effects of the war on the North and South.

Next, the students will learn more about playing chess. They began playing chess last year in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Chess teaches the importance of planning and the consequences of decisions. It can also teach students how to concentrate, how to win and lose gracefully, how to think logically and effectively, and how to make tough and abstract decisions.

In addition, the students will continue the next level of Hands-on-Equations. This program allows students to solve complex algebraic concepts, thereby increasing their confidence and interest in math.



The students will be participating in ChessFest this May. They will play chess and compete with other schools. It is always

## Coding

Our gifted students participated in the "Hour of Code" in December. They will learn basic computer coding. The students loved it and did a fantastic job! Ask your students about coding!



## Genius Hour

Grades 2, 4, & 5

Genius hour is an approach to learning where students are guided by their own interests, background knowledge, and curiosity to learn. ... Genius hour is truly "open-ended" learning characterized by student self-direction, passion-based learning, inquiry, and autonomy. The students will have the option to make a poster, diorama, book, Google Slideshow presentation, or present a speech about a topic that they are passionate about after they complete their research.

## Savannah-Chatham County Gifted Information

Students, grades kindergarten through twelve, in the Savannah Chatham County School System who demonstrate a high degree of intellectual, academic, and/or creative ability are provided with special instructional services by the Program for Gifted Students. Eligibility criteria for placement in this program are determined by the State Board of Education. Referrals for consideration for eligibility for gifted services may be made by teachers, counselors, administrators, parents or guardians, peers, self, and other individuals with knowledge of the student's abilities. For a summary of eligibility criteria or for further information about Savannah Chatham County School System Program for Gifted Students, please contact the Gifted Education Specialist at your child's school or contact: Jov Kev-Smith at the District office.

## Wish List

- Kleenex
- Clorox Wipes
- Sanitizer
- Hand Soap
- Paper Towels

