

5-2 UPDATE

Though most communication is done via the class website, I also like to send home a hard copy of some things going on in the class as another way to make sure communication is alive and well! Please take a few minutes to update yourself with class happenings.

SCHOOLWIDE READING

We have completed our first unit using “Schoolwide”, which has focused on each student looking at themselves as a reader and their individual reading habits. We also have taken time to review previously learned skills and strategies to help with reading comprehension.

A large part of this program gives time allowing each student “independent reading” time, using their own text to try out newly learned strategies and skills. Reading time should also be done at home, at least 20 minutes, and should be logged by each student (your signature not needed).

We have now started into our second unit, a study of Non-Fiction, and how to tackle this unique genre.



MY BROTHER SAM IS DEAD

We will soon be beginning the read-aloud, “My Brother Sam is Dead”, by Christopher Collier and James Lincoln Collier. Watch for a note to come home this week explaining this powerful novel in greater depth.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR LIT CIRCLES

We have also started to have students work in student-led literature circles. Wanting to give the students more Middle School experiences, we’ve mixed them up into different classrooms with different students and teachers.

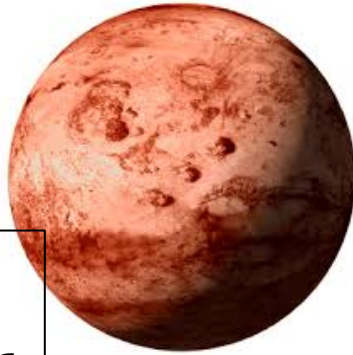
Each group will be working with a different novel, depicting a different interpretation of what was happening during the time of the American Revolution.

Novels include: *Daniel at the Siege of Boston*, *The Fighting Ground*, *The Keeping Room*, *Woods Runner*, *Storyteller*, *Sophia’s War*, *Chains*, and others.





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PARENT — TEACHER CONFERENCES

Can't believe it's that time. Keep an eye out this week for sign up info.

AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED!

With “shillings” now taking over the 5th grade, they only have real value if they can be used. We will be having regular classroom auctions in which students can use their shillings to purchase items of their liking.

I am always on the lookout for new items to add to the auction block. This is a great opportunity to clean out the old (lightly used) from the house, and allow it to be put to good use!

Send in your goodies with your young colonist, and see what they come home with!



THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION & 2060 MARS COLONIZATION

We have begun our study of the American Revolution and have learned about the events leading to the turmoil in the British Colonies. Happening over 200 years ago, it can be difficult for a 10/11 year old to grasp what was happening.

To help with this understanding, the class is simultaneously experiencing an American Colonization of Mars in the year 2060. They have quickly begun to see the parallels between what they are experiencing on Mars, and what colonists experienced long ago. They have had to deal with Native Martians protecting their land, other nations wanting a claim of Mars as well, and a U.S. government making decisions from far, far away.

Through discussion and journal entries, similar frustrations and anxieties are being felt!

As well, back in the 1700's, taxing has begun.

Students found themselves having to pay a tax for “chair usage”, as well as a “complaining tax” if they weren't happy with the new laws. Last week, they also assisted John Adams in determining the guilt or innocence of British soldiers firing upon a crowd at the “Boston Massacre”.

This week, they take a quiz on Friday, going over the events they have learned about leading to Revolution.

HALLOWEEN 2015

Check your email for a food labels describing foods to be shared at our party Friday afternoon. Thanks in advance to those coming in to help for this event!