

Penguin Problem Solvers



SCAPA Math Happenings.....

Beginning this year, with the creation of our new “Math Lab”, we are developing and implementing a connected math curriculum which includes all of our students and is focused on problem solving strategies and activities.

The 4th graders are working hard on core content and enjoying their lap-tops which give them access to “First In Math” along with several other engaging and educational math websites. They will soon be visiting the math lab for problem solving activities using many “hands on” strategies. Way to go, MR. BEERS!!!

The 5th graders continue their classroom study of all the strands of math including: number sense, geometry, probability/statistics, and geometry/measurement. Along with this, we have instituted Monday afternoon small groups called “Penguin Problem Solvers” (PPS). We are VERY excited to offer this opportunity for the students to visit the Math Lab and work with creative problem solving activities. Ms. Randolph’s class has formed the “Penguin Podcast Network” (PPN) which will be reporting on all mathematical happenings in our building, along with other various activities. Mrs. Klein’s class will be contributing to the podcast by participating in various problem solving activities and reporting these events to the PPN personel. Ms. Randolph and Mrs. Klein....you ROCK!!!!

The 6th graders have completed their unit on Number Theory and are creating a short story or a poem which demonstrates knowledge and understanding of the concepts they have studied. They are beginning a unit on rational numbers and will be creating some of their own assignments. Mrs. Garr is TIRELESS in her quest to provide in depth mathematical study. Way to go Mrs. GARR!!

The 6th grade has also begun a new small group rotation class called “Read/Write/Math”. This class bases each mathematical activity on literature. Some titles we will study are “The Village of Round and Square Houses”, “Spaghetti and Meatballs for All”, “How Big is a Foot”, “Charlie and the Glass Elevator”, “Tikki Tikki Tembo”, “The Missing Piece”, “My Little Sister Ate One Hare” and many others. This class has proven to be LOADS of fun and learning!

The 7th grade has finished their unit on integers and is beginning a study on patterns. Some patterns which will be investigated include: Pascal’s Triangle, Fibonacci Sequence, Triangular Numbers, Sierpinski’s Triangle, and many more. They will also be working hard to establish the algebraic rule for the “nth” term. Our 7th grade will be participating in Penguin Problem Solvers through their regular classes in the form of weekly Problem Solving Activities. This is a very strong group of students and we are thrilled to have them to work with!

The 8th Grade Algebra 1 classes are beginning their Function Unit. This unit will include a large amount of new material and will greatly enhance their knowledge of Algebra 1. Also, our 8th graders have recently accepted the challenge to become the # 1 scoring group of 8th graders on the KCCT test in May of 2009. To help prepare for this, they will be receiving weekly core content packets which contain assessment material that is not taught through the Algebra 1 curriculum. We APPLAUD them for taking on this challenge and going above and beyond to put SCAPA back on top!

The 8th grade Problem Solvers class has begun their “IGLOO” project which includes 3 dimensional drawings of modular homes along with a subdivision design and appropriate pricing based on land area, roof area, and wall area. This is a delightful project and we can’t WAIT to see their final products! Way to go, Ms. Bird! We love having you with us this year!! ☺

Be sure to watch for more news from our PPS on the PPN.

It is coming soon.....

