

GT Grades 3-6

Ridgewood Avenue School

End of Year Newsletter 2020

Understanding the World's Water Supply

After calculating the percentage of fresh water available on Earth, students explored the water sources around the world. When virtual learning began, students played "Up from the Dust" and read various books dealing with the Great American Dust Bowl. New details and historical perspectives were formatted into a newspaper.

3

Solar Energy and a Revolutionary Spy

After finishing their timelines of solar energy, students began crafting their solar car kits right before the March shut down of school. With the aid of parents securing a copy of "Sophia's War," exploration of the Revolutionary Culper Spy Ring was revealed in this historical fiction novel.

4

Nanotechnology followed by a Documentary Novel

After mini explorations dealing with nanotechnology and exploring how things change at a molecular level, students began a documentary novel, "Nothin But the Truth." Students then began to develop some mistruths to incorporate into personal stories.

5

The Museum of Mathematics field trip experience was followed by a unit dealing with the binary system.

The wonderful world of mathematics was further explored while celebrating National Pi Day, March 14th, with riddles, activities, and newly discovered facts. The date is also the birthday of Albert Einstein and Stephen Curry. Who knew?

With references in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, Adolf Hitler's *Mein Kampf*, Leo Tolstoy's *War and Peace*, and F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, the historical and factual accuracy surrounding "The Egg of Columbus" was explored. Yet the story of Columbus' Egg, alluding to creativity, seems immortalized by an egg shaped monument in Ibiza, Spain.

Biomimicry and "Outcasts United"

6

Innovation, when inspired by nature, will promote a more sustainable world. Students explored the technologies already developed that implore the philosophy set by Janine Benyus. After researching the attributes of certain living things, students crafted Google Slide presentations of a Biomimetic Super Hero, describing three attributes influenced by nature and the nanotechnology aspects incorporated into their super powers. To capitalize on this unit, students were scheduled for a Biomimicry workshop being offered by the Somerset Environmental Commission. Unfortunately, this trip was cancelled as schools closed this spring.

An American town, a refugee team, and one woman's quest to make a difference drew the attention to the inspirational true story behind the transformation of a Georgia town, the "Fugees" diverse youth soccer team, and their coach, Luma Mufleh. Exploring where the real heroes of this story are today allowed students to see the dedication displayed in "Outcasts United."