

FROM THE DESK OF MRS. KUUSELA...

Simple Machines

What can you learn about wheels
through hands on centers?



The invention of the wheel made human tasks so much easier thousands of years ago and continues today. In the last unit, students worked at four wheel stations and recorded their observations on a question sheet at each center.

Station A had students construct two different cars to compare the distance each one would roll starting on an inclined bank.



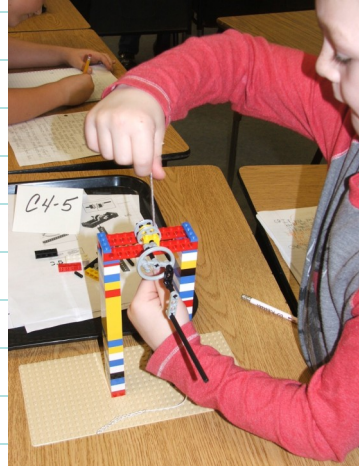
One car had 4 wheels of the same size, while the other car had two larger wheels in the rear. The students made 3 test runs for each car recording the distances. They discovered that the larger the wheel the further the vehicle would roll.

Station B was a crank system designed to lift a 50g weight. Students compared two different crank sizes and discovered the larger the crank wheel, the easier it



was to lift an object.

Station C dealt with the advantages of a double axle wheel vs. a single axle wheel. Students were amazed to find the difference in turning ability for the two axles. Some rules they discovered were: a single axle has wheels that turn at the same speed, while the double axle has wheels that turn at different speeds. When an axle turns in an arc, the inner wheel needs to travel more slowly than the outer wheel, so the double axle



was much easier to turn.

Station D dealt with how conveyors use wheels to move things from one point to another. Gliding objects on rollers is easier than across flat surfaces. After the conveyor was completed, they were asked to develop a system that controlled the speed of the wheels with a crank and a belt. Just think all this knowledge from some simple wheel observations!



April 10, 2015

Volume 1 Issue 8

Special points of interest:

- ✓ Wheel Centers– Exploration of Wheel rules
- ✓ Dr Johnson- Pompeii slide presentation
- ✓ Timeline cards of Greco Roman Era
- ✓ Classic Paragraph and Spelling Lists

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Dr. Johnson Shares Slides of Pompeii

Traveling to ancient places becomes more vivid when we see and hear about the sight through someone who has been there! On Wednesday, March 18, Dr. Johnson, a member of the Sedro-Woolley School Board, brought slides of her trip to Pompeii. The students met for a special all grade presentation. She shared details about Roman culture, the area surrounding Pompeii and the current crisis of trying to protect the ruins from weather and tourists. (See Seattle Times article attached) Some highlights of the show were "Roman Speed Bumps" or stones placed in the middle of streets meant to slow chariots down, and



campaign slogans still visible on building walls showing that political advertising was popular in AD79, as well as today.

Slides of Herculaneum were also in the presentation. This town near

Pompeii was destroyed by the volcano at the same time, with even more ash covering the city. Herculaneum does not get as much publicity as Pompeii.

For many students, this was the first time they saw modern day ruins. Visualizing the appearance of the original buildings compared to the ruins of today is difficult. An introductory BBC video was shown to students prior to Dr. Johnson's visit. The video is called "Pompeii The Last Day". Students were shown re-enactments of the final moments in both cities as they might have looked then and now. The video made it very clear the last moments of life were not pleasant, which they will see in the body casts on view at the Science Center.

Greco Roman Research for Timeline



asked to find 3-5 important dates and facts about Roman culture from a library of books and internet timelines. They were to choose one event and then create an illustrated card to place on the classroom timeline. The younger students drew their own cards, while the older students used a publishing template from the computer to complete the assignment.

powerful civilizations and will they/ we eventually disappear?



If you are 10 years old, ancient history is AD 2010. Teaching young students history 1,000's of years in the past is similar to making Astronomy distances understandable, you must make a visual model in proportion to make it comprehensible. Timelines are the best way to give students a sense of time for historical comparison. When you add research of important dates and apply them to cards which the students place on a class timeline, then the child has a better understanding of the history.

Once Roman culture was completed, then the students were asked to repeat the research with the Greek culture. A big idea that needed to be addressed in this unit, other than the eruption of Vesuvius, was the influence Greece had on the Roman government, architecture, art and religion.

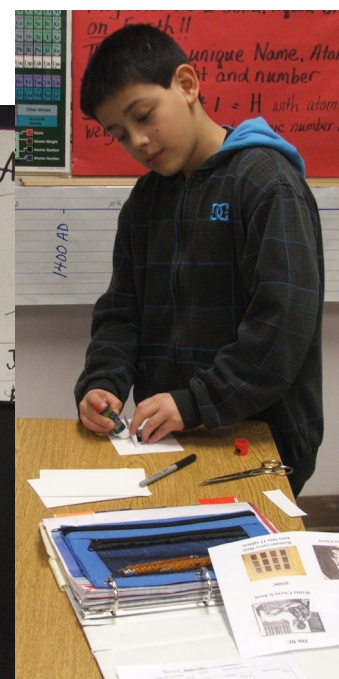
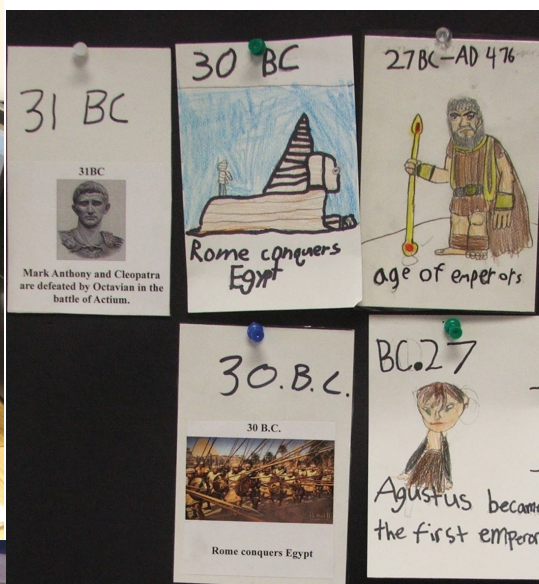
The following are some big questions about civilizations which were posed: What are civilizations and why do they change? How long does it take for a civilization to disappear? How are civilizations similar and different from one another? What are today's most



The "when" of the five w's for learning was our starting point for the unit on Pompeii. Students were



CLASS IN ACTION



Timeline cards grades 2-4



4th and 6th grade students researching important Roman Dates for timeline



Classic Paragraphs and Spelling

The classic reading paragraph questions, which the 3-6th graders have been completing since January, are meant to help students think more deeply about their reading. They are taken directly from the University of Connecticut's Schoolwide Enrichment Model—Reading Bookmarks program. The website can be found at www.gifted.uconn.edu. The bookmarks provide a variety of questions dealing with plot, setting, and characters to develop the reader's comprehension. The questions fit in well with our Classic Reading and Vocabulary Lists homework requirement. Once a week the students share their writing and grade themselves using a rubric. If you are wondering about questions to ask your child to see if they comprehend their reading, then look

on the University's website under the SEM program.

As for Classic Spelling, after a few weeks of collecting difficult vocabulary words from their readings, a spelling list is compiled for vocabulary expansion. The words the students choose have been rigorous: anguish, incantations, belligerent, dilapidated, and accentuate

to name a few. The students need to know the word's definition and/or given the definition must then spell the correct word. This is not your Grandmother's way of taking a spelling test by simply writing a word stated. There are three ways words are presented during the Classic Spelling Test.

1. A word can be given the traditional way.
2. A definition of the word is given and then the student writes the correct word.
3. The student must write the definition of the word given.

With this method of testing, students really must understand the meaning of the words rather than just memorizing the letter placement. Hopefully, an added benefit to this way of testing is their vocabulary will expand.

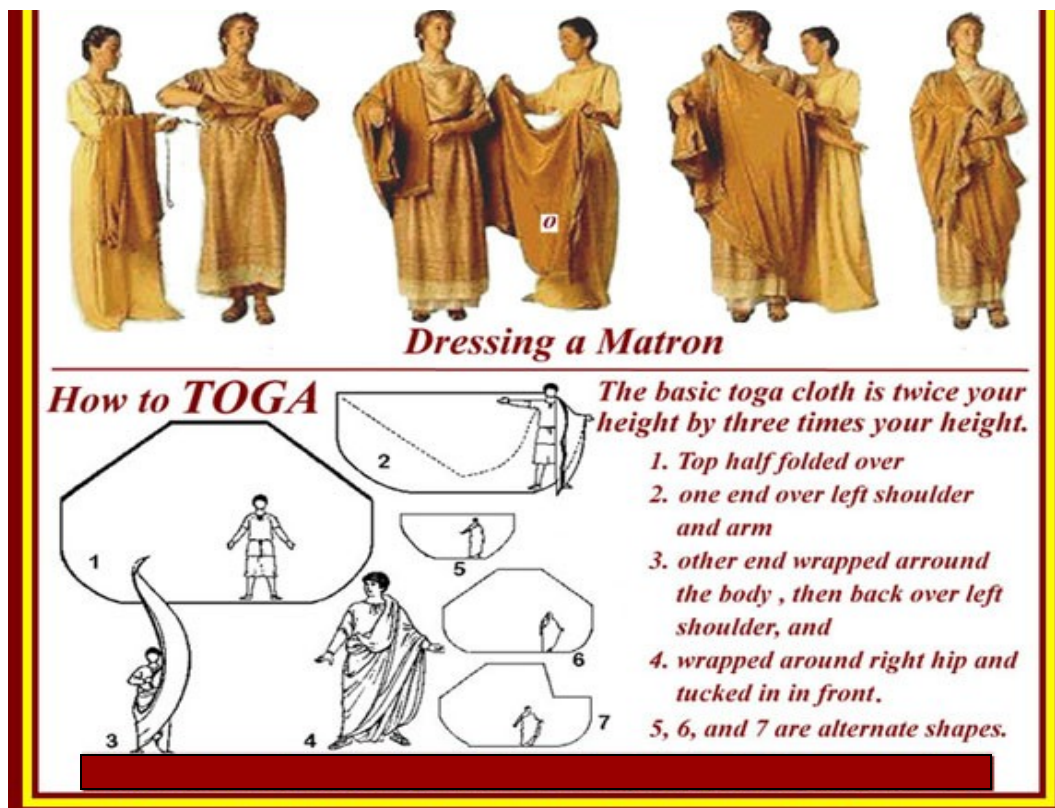
Spelling

isn't

EZ



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April

Student of the Month Trait: Tolerance

Public School Volunteer Week, 20th thru 24th

Monday, 4/6/15	Welcome back from Spring Break!
Tuesday, 4/7/15	Hi-Cap fieldtrip to PSC for Pompeii Exhibit, 8 – 4:30 p.m. Kindergarten Roundup –Intown schools, 5 – 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, 4/8/15	CPG Fudge bar sales, 75 cents during lunches ASB Meeting, Room 3, 12:40 – 1:10 Kindergarten Roundup –Outlying schools, 5 – 8:00 p.m.
Thursday, 4/9/15	CPG Meeting, Library, 6:30 p.m.
Friday, 4/10/15	BINGO Night! Gym, 6 – 8:00 p.m.
4/11/15 thru 4/12/15	Sedro-Woolley Woodfest!
Monday, 4/13/15	Camp Orkila counselors meet & greet 6 th grades, before lunches School Board Meeting, SSB, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, 4/14-17/15	Camp Orkila!
04/20/15 thru 04/24/15	ASB Coins for Cancer coin drive
4/20/15 thru 6/5/15	MSP Science, grade 5
Tuesday, 4/21/15	Public Volunteer Day Breakfast, Library, 8:45 – 9:30
Wednesday, 4/22/15	CPG Fudge bar sales, 75 cents during lunches ASB Meeting, Room 3, 12:40 – 1:10
Thursday, 4/23/15	Spring picture day Secretaries Week luncheon, Super Secretaries Salad Bar & Desserts!
Friday, 4/24/15	ASB Spirit Day! Support Cancer Awareness Day! School Board Meeting, Samish, 7:00 p.m.