



## How to navigate the newsletter.

★ Starred classes have important information for next week.

The underlined sections highlight this week's homework and any special details for the week ahead.

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- Go check out the Journey Facebook page for all the action photos of these classes!

Class header colors =

**HOMEWORK OPTIONAL CLASSES**

**HOMEWORK REQUIRED CLASSES**

# T: Rainforest Wonders

Taught by Beckie Olupot

All Ages 

This week we learned about the ground birds of the rainforest, particularly the cassowary and how it camouflages its eggs to help its species survive.

## Homework Assignment: Rainforest Ground Birds

1. Camouflage Challenge at Home: Find a small object at home, decorate or color it so it blends in with a spot in your house or yard. Ask a family member to try to find it. Write or draw what you did and how well your camouflage worked.

2. Rainforest Research: Pick one ground-dwelling bird (like a cassowary, tinamou, or curassow) and draw it in its natural rainforest habitat. Label how it hides or protects itself and any interesting facts you learned

# T: Magic School Bus

Taught by Miss Heavenly

1st-3rd

Today the class watched a Magic School Bus episode about the desert and answered questions to show what they learned. We talked about why the desert is hot, how animals stay cool, and why some come out at night. Students named different desert animals and shared their own ideas for staying cool. We ended by reviewing how each animal is designed to survive in its habitat and practiced observing how creatures adapt to their environment.

# T: Little Builders

Taught by Shannon Van Beek

**1st - 3rd**

This week in little builders we learned about castles. We watched a couple short videos and then drew our own castles.

# T: Lego Life

Taught by Leah Sytsma

1st-3rd

Today's challenge was to build a creative version of their favorite food!

# T: Back to the Land

## Practical Homesteading Skills

Taught by Silvia Duthie

### All Ages

Today was all about CHICKENS! Many of the students already knew a lot from owning their own. Rose, one of our students, volunteered to present today, coming prepared with a visual board about her chickens and more. They learned about raising them, feeding them, protecting them from predators, and the good they can provide a homestead. Excellent work, Rose!

The three chickens on display are Leghorn, Barred Rock, and a Silkie. One of them layed an egg during the younger class.

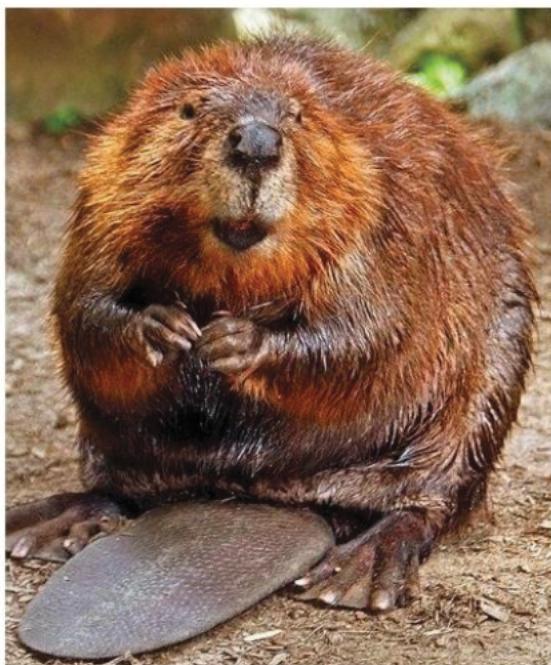
## All Ages

Today in Hunter's Path we learned all about Ammunition! The difference between them, how they work, what it looks like inside your firearm, and the necessities of getting the correct ammunition for the firearm you are using!

Next week's animal is the American Beaver!

## **:ANIMAL OF THE WEEK:**

## American Beaver



## Habitat and Habits

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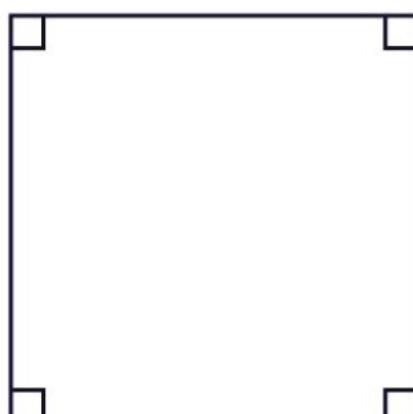
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### LifeSpan in Wild:

## PAW PRINT



**Joke of the Week:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# T: Global Gatherings

Taught by Samantha Todd

## All Ages

This week in Global Gatherings, we “traveled” to Germany and explored some of its most iconic landmarks and traditions. Students learned about the fairy-tale beauty of Neuschwanstein Castle, the mysterious and story-rich Black Forest, and the craftsmanship behind traditional German cuckoo clocks. To bring the culture to life, we finished the lesson by making soft pretzel bites—shaping dough, baking golden pieces, and enjoying a warm taste of German cuisine together.

# T: Wholesome Plates

*Cooking with Nutrition in Mind*

Taught by Sarah Lutz

7th - 12th

This week we prepped our food for next week. In the notebook journal there is a recipe for bone broth. We prepped the bone broth from chicken bones to cook this week, freeze, and use next week. We chopped vegetables to freeze and use next week. Next week we will be making chicken pot pie.

# T: Faith in Action

Hands-On Missions and Ministry

Taught by Rebecca Cherry

## All Ages

This week, we learned about Mission Auca, an amazing story of forgiveness and bravery in missions. We began working on our mission passports and did a weaving project from Ecuador.

## All Ages

The kids explored how height and gravity affected motion and impact. They got into groups and dropped a pong ball which was to bounce on 3-4 objects placed at different heights and their goal was to get it to land into a cup on its last bounce.

### Homework: Real-World Observation of Gravity and Height

1. Find an example: observe something that moves because of gravity, like a ball rolling down a ramp or a slide.
2. Sketch it: draw the object and its path, showing the starting height and where it ends.
3. Reflect: write 2-3 sentences: how did height affect the motion? What would happen if it started lower? How does this relate to what you learned about gravity in class?

# T: Tech Toolbox

## Essential Computer Skills

Taught by Rebecca Cherry

### All Ages

Our 4-6th graders spent the day learning the basics of Google Docs and planning a Christmas Party. The 7-12th graders are continuing to make resumes for fictional characters through Google Docs.

# T: Capture Crew Photography and Yearbook

Taught by Alex Lutz

**7th - 12th**

I subbed (Mrs. Shannon) for photography this week and the focus was on perception. They all took pictures of the same 15 objects in different ways.

# T: Picture Perfect Memories Scrapbooking

Taught by Alex Lutz

4th-12th

Today our students got creative with a paper quilting project! They chose a pattern, cut out their pieces, and used scrapbook paper to design their very own quilt blocks. It was so fun watching their personalities shine through each pattern, color choice, and detail. Such a great way to blend art, patience, and creativity!

# T: Art Adventures

Taught by Leah Sytsma

**1st - 3rd**

Our lesson was on line and pattern. We learned that lines are moving points that can be created with tools like pencils, pens and paintbrushes. Lines can show movement and emotion. We learned that patterns repeat in a predictable way. Many patterns are created using lines. We looked at famous works of art that used lines and patterns. We also learned about an artistic technique called resist. We used the wax from a white crayon to create lines and patterns that resisted our watercolors.

# T: Creative Canvas

Taught by Jill Childs & Rebecca Cherry

**4th - 12th**

Today in Creative Canvas, the students continued working on their watercolor Christmas cards. It was so fun watching their holiday designs come to life with color, texture, and creativity. Each card is turning into a beautiful handmade piece of Christmas cheer!

# T: Move to the Beat

## Rhythm, Movement, & Drumming

Taught by Erin Young

**1st-3rd / 4th-6th**

Today was all about drumming! We did different drumming patterns and rhythms and the kids all did a fantastic job! Their favorite was playing along with "Little Drummer Boy".

All Ages 

We read through 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, aiming to encourage and teach them to be “thankful in all circumstances.”

This week, we played slap ball, hunters vs. turkeys, and dodgeball.

Hope you all have a great Thanksgiving break.

\*\*\*Please make sure your child has proper footwear for gym class when we return.\*\*\*

Thank you.

# T: Spanish

Taught by Monique Gibson

All Ages 

Hola,

Today for both 7th -12 grades and 4th -6th grades we reviewed some vocabulary and questions and also added some new vocabulary words! A homework sheet was sent home and additional homework will be posted in Google Classroom!

In 1st- 3rd grades today, we went new vocabulary in chapter 6. At home they can work on reviewing that and finish the exercises on pages 26 and 27! Gracias!

# T: Phonics Fun

Taught by Shannon Van Beek

1st-3rd

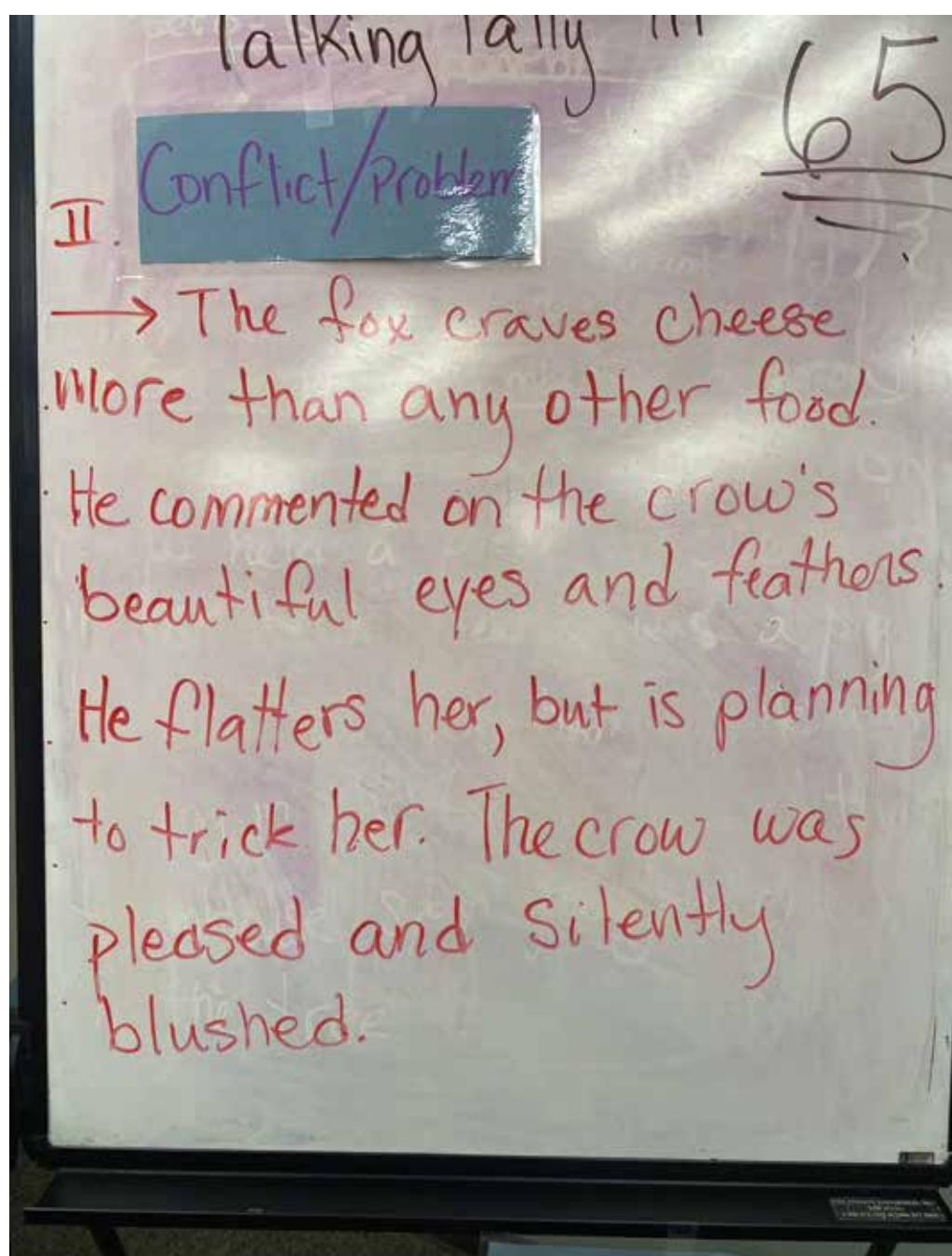
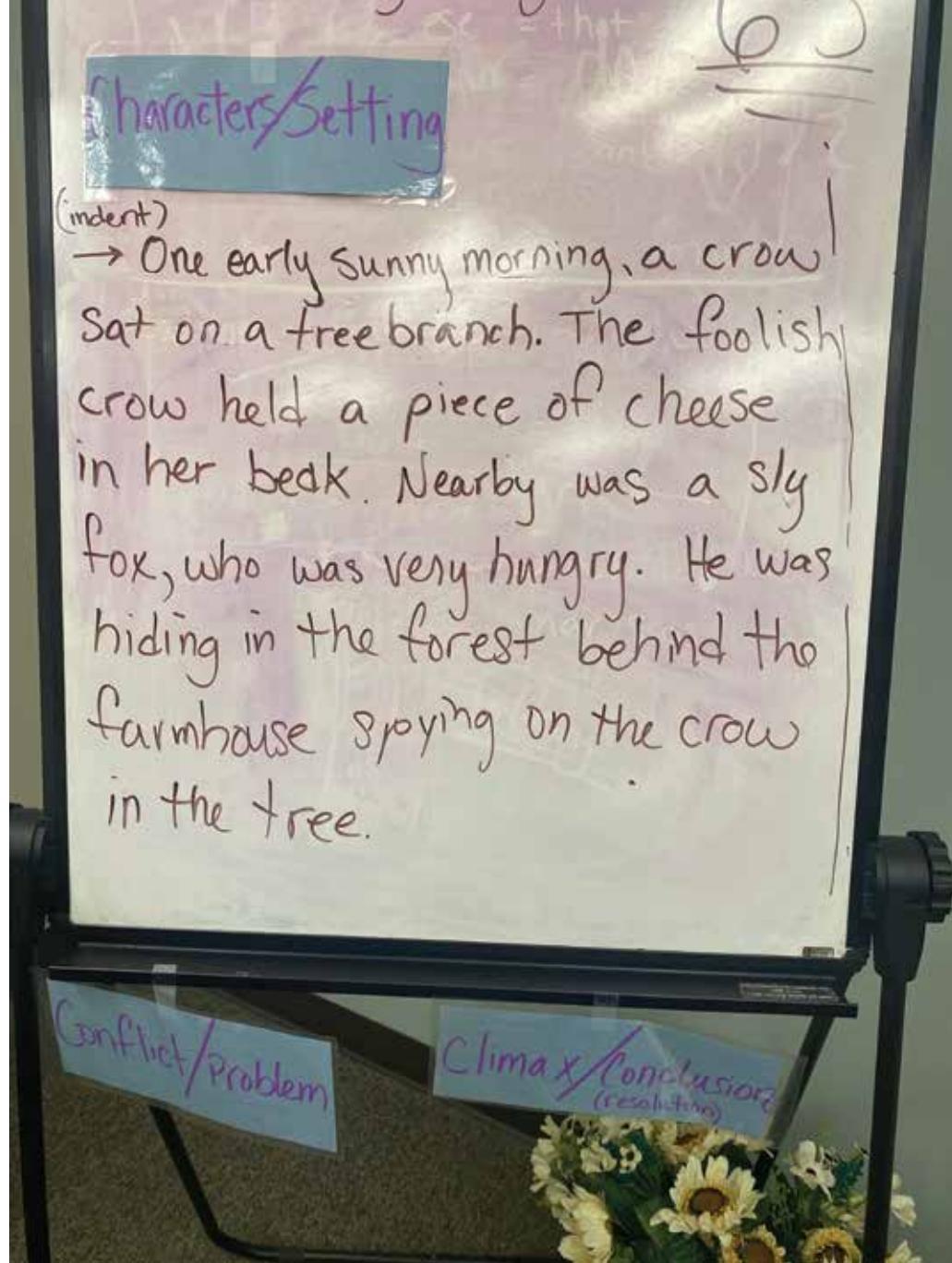
Today in phonics we started reading a new book called "Saving Winslow". After that we played a new phonics game. I hung three pictures and they spelled a word with the first sound in each picture.

Example:    = hat

3rd-5th 

Today we tackled Lesson 9, which is a continuation of the writing project started in lesson 8. From our KWO in lesson 8, we began retelling the fable in our own words. We were able to get through the first two sections of the Story Sequence. It is helpful for students to feed off of each other's ideas! Hearing how others turn key words into a sentence can be inspiring. There is not only one "right answer," but many, many ways to construct a sentence that contains the same basic information.

Homework: finish writing sentences, organized into three separate paragraphs, from the KWO in lesson 8 and use the checklist (at the end of lesson 9) to complete a final draft.



# T: IEW Investigations in Writing Taught by Leah Boone

6th-8th 

Today we learned about quality adjectives! I handed out a list of dozens of high quality adjectives to use in place of the common/weak/boring adjectives. We played a game to study these. Next, we began lesson 10. Again, we are summarizing a reference and practicing the skill of "limiting" - choosing some facts to write about from the source, but leaving out details that are less important or interesting to the writer/student. We closed out the class with a vocab quiz that was peer corrected. Parents, it is in the back of the book if you'd like to see it.

Homework: complete the lesson 10, Socrates, KWO and paragraph. Complete the style practice pages before the final draft. Use the checklist to remind yourself of all the elements you need to included! \*\*We now have 5 dress-ups: -ly adverb, who/which clause, strong verb, because clause, and quality adjective. Take note of the banned words  

# T:IEW Writing Research

Taught by Leah Boone

8th - 12th 

Today we talked about "what is a thesis?" We defined it and discussed ways to create a thesis statement. Then, using our workbook, we studied different thesis statements and decided if they were "lacking," "adequate," or "excellent." We reviewed how to address the counterargument in our papers, and I directed them to page 72 to help. Using signal phrases and transition words/phrases is essential for an effective research essay. PARENTS: I handed back to them my notes on their first drafts.

Homework: READ THROUGH chapter 8 as preparation for doing your first revision of the rough draft. Revise your first draft and submit to a parent for review and then bring to class next week!

## 1st-3rd / 4th-6th

Today in Michigan History, we explored Henry Ford, the invention of the Model T, and the revolutionary idea of the assembly line. The kids learned how Ford's method helped cars get built faster, cheaper, and more efficiently, and how it changed the way products are made all over the world.

To help them experience the concept, we practiced our own "assembly line" in two hands-on activities:

### 1. Model T Coloring Assembly Line

Students first tried to color a Model T picture all by themselves.

Then we repeated the task using an assembly line, where each student was responsible for just one part (tires, windows, headlights, body, etc.).

They immediately saw how much faster and more consistent the work became when everyone had one repeating job—just like Ford's factory.

### 2. Cookie Jar Assembly Line

Next, we put the assembly line to the test with a real product: a Cookie Mix Jar!

Each student was responsible for adding one ingredient to the jar. The older class had only a few minutes to complete their jars, but they rocked it and worked quickly and efficiently—very Ford-like!

The younger class got a little help from the Cooking Class, but... let's just say some of those layers may not be perfectly even.  So I offer no guarantees on the finished product—haha! But everyone worked hard, and each jar still looks wonderfully homemade. (And everyone washed their hands before starting!) We had a great time learning how teamwork, repetition, and innovation helped shape Michigan's history and the world of manufacturing.

Each student brought home a homework page.

# T: Anatomy and Physiology 4th-6th

Taught by Sarah Lutz

4th-6th 

We finished up the respiratory system. We tried measuring Riley's lung volume but unfortunately the experiment did not work and just made a giant wet mess. Many of your kids jumped in to clean up with paper towels without being asked. We used a bottle with balloons to mimic how a diaphragm and lungs work together. Both of these activities are at the end of the respiratory lesson.

We all had a really good laugh when I asked the students what part of the body is responsible for lung function. Two students answered with "fajita." After reviewing the text, it talks about Mexican fajitas being made out of diaphragms. 

Your students did a great job writing about the dangers of smoking!

Reading for next week is p.119-131. Get through what you can. Hoping to only spend a week on the blood lesson as there are not many experiments or engaging activities. We'll be working on the vocabulary and mini book next week in class.

Please do notebook pages 93-95.

# T: General Science 7th-9th

Taught by Silvia Duthie

7th-9th



We finished off the final experiment of Module 6, learning about layers of dirt and sediment. The students created their own layers of sediment using a jar, filling them with equal parts of dirt, sand, and rocks. After mixing and then adding water, they mixed it again and had to let it sit.

Homework: Students need to finish this experiment at home. Follow the instructions from your book and finish the questions and drawings needed. This needs to sit overnight. They will need to draw what they see the next day (tomorrow). Next week, I want to see the drawings!

Also, start reading Module 7, half way through.

# M&T: Exploring Creation with Anatomy (8-12) Taught by Silvia Duthie

8th - 12th 

Monday: We began Module 7 today, learning about the complex Nervous System. I attached the notes that we went over today in class. Tomorrow, we will do our lab with the microscopes. I don't think we can cover all the material to test by next Monday, so as of now, we will add next Monday to finish up the Module and test on Tuesday of next week.

Module 7 Homework: Coloring Book pages 116-123

Complete all OYO and SGQ's by test day.

Tuesday: The students completed their Mod 7 microscope experiment, studying the parts of a neuron. We then continued the lesson plan about Action Potentials at rest. Next week, we will finish off the chapter and have the test on Tuesday. Have all homework ready by then. Great job.

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving! It was so fun to be back together with my little friends.

## CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

On December 15 & 16 our kindergarten classes will have a short Christmas program and Christmas cookies to follow. Parents and siblings are invited to attend.

Date: December 15 & 16

Time: 9:30

Place: High Pointe Community Church Sanctuary

Here's what we did this week:

Calendar/weather

Number identification

Bible story

December Bible verse

We read a few Christmas books

Worked on spelling/writing our name

Art

Handwriting Without Tears reviewed previous letters

Wrote and decorated a Christmas Card

Bingo bag alphabet game

Gym