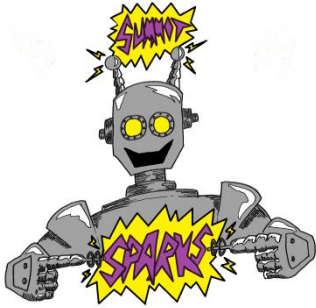


Summit SPARKS Notes

November 2014

Hello STEM Families,



Happy November! I hope that all of you have been enjoying the beautiful fall weather and are preparing for winter as I think it will be here sooner than we know it. It is hard to believe that later this month we will celebrate Thanksgiving. What a wonderful time of the year to give thanks for all the blessings in our lives. I know I am especially thankful for the opportunity to work with the STEMtastic children, parents, teachers at staff here at Summit!

As always, there is a lot of information in this newsletter that I hope you will find to be informative and helpful. We are continuing to post timely information on our website so be sure to make a habit of checking it on a regular basis. You can access the website at http://www.reyn.org/summitroadelementary_home.aspx

Sincerely,
Melissa Drury
Principal

Technology Tidbits

Each classroom at Summit now has Ipads for classroom use! Through the use of a grant and our PTO fundraising efforts, we have 10 Ipads for student use in grades K-1 and 6 Ipads for student use in grades 2-4. We also have 30 new laptops for our students to use.

We have recently added Achieve 3000 as a reading supplemental for grades 2-4. Achieve 3000 is a digital literacy resource that provides non-fiction articles to students at their reading level for an individualized practice. All students in grades 2-4 have a password to access Achieve 3000 from home. We encourage students to read and complete at least three passages a week between school and home!

Junior First Lego League

We are excited to announce that every third grader this year will have an opportunity to be a part of our beginning level Lego Robotics Club. The club will be held after school on Wednesdays starting in January. If you have a third grader, look for information to come home soon in your child's take home folder.

Mark Your Calendar!

On Tuesday, November 25th we will hold a Core Value Parade showcasing floats students make for our building-wide monthly design challenge. That same afternoon, we will hold our first core value assembly presented by first graders at 1:30. They will be kicking off their compassion service project with a visit from Nellie of Nellie's Catwalk for Kids!

PTO Meetings

If you have not been able to attend a PTO meeting yet this year, I encourage you to join us! Prior to each meeting I am holding an informational parent session on topics requested by you! The first one addressed the new state assessments for third and fourth graders. November's session addressed our building's RTI process as well as 504s and IEPs. Both of these presentations are now on our website if you missed them but are still interested in the information. Our next PTO meeting will be held on December 8th at 6:30 with a parent informational session at 6:00. The topic of the session is yet to be decided but based on your input will potentially address our blended learning components or our standards based grading. Watch the website for details!

STEMtastic Learning Sightings

There is always great teaching and learning happening at Summit. Here are a few sightings:

K

Our kindergarten students have been busy working on lots of reading skills including retellings, the difference between fiction and nonfiction and characters/settings. The students just completed a very exciting design challenge where they created a "wild thing" to go with Where the Wild Things Are! Stop and check them out!

1

First graders are working hard on their daily five rotations in reading. They are spending time learning the difference between fiction and nonfiction texts. First graders just finished interviewing veterans and are creating a bulletin board of these heroes. They are getting ready to start a STEM study of wind and flight using the book Balloons Over Broadway.

2

Our second grade STEMbots have started their interdisciplinary unit on communities. In fact, Mr. Ball came to speak to our students about urbanization and they visited the high school Fab Lab to collaborate on 3D structures for the second grade community. Our students are also engaging in lots of reading and writing related to communities during this unit.

3

Third graders just finished their living history museum which was truly amazing! We had many creative inventors on display. Our students did a great job researching their inventor and then becoming the person through their speech and attire! Our third graders will be diving into a study of diverse cultural groups as they investigate holidays around the world as well as the practices and products different cultural groups have.

4

Fourth grade is embracing their interdisciplinary STEM unit on electricity and government. Students are reading City of Ember and taking a look at energy use and circuits. Students are creating different circuits using batteries, foil, and light bulbs which has created lots of excitement.

Announcing . . . Literacy Nights!

We will be holding two literacy nights targeted for parents of students who received not on track letters earlier this school year! Of course, all parents are welcome to attend. The first literacy night will take place on December 2nd and will be tailored to the needs of kindergarten, first, and second graders. The second literacy night will be held on December 3rd and will be tailored to the needs of third and fourth grade students. Both events will be held from 6:00-7:00 pm. It is our hope that you will leave the meetings with an understanding of the 5 Big Ideas of Reading and ways to help your child be a successful reader. We will have several make-and-take ideas for you to do and take home for immediate use with your child!



Do you know anyone who might be interested in helping our STEMbots at Summit? We are currently working on finding volunteers who would commit to an 8 week reading program we have created to help our kindergarten and first graders who would benefit from extra reading support. The program will be called STEMbot Readers and will occur afterschool from 2:30-3:30 two days a week starting in January and running 8 weeks. The STEMbot Readers program will pair each volunteer with one student to work on reading skills. Training will be provided to our volunteers! If you are interested or know of someone who is please contact Nana Oppong at nana.oppong@reyn.org or Melissa Drury at mdrury@reyn.org!

Huge Thank You!

Summit is very thankful for a wonderful PTO! At our most recent meeting, the PTO approved the funding of our Robotics Club by purchasing the LEGO kits needed for our student groups! In addition, PTO approved money for our book room to purchase multiple copies of books to use with students in guided reading. This was much needed! PTO is also providing \$100.00 per grade level to start the creation of STEM unit tubs for each grade. Finally, PTO increased the budget for our Innovation Station and provided us with new playground toys using our Box Top points! Thank you so very much!

Please remember that you can access Powerschool at any time using the log-in provided to you at the beginning of the year. This will enable you to see how your child is progressing with his/her learning. We covered many 1st quarter standards during the teacher work stoppage. Our first quarter Common Assessments will show up as a documentation of that work for grades 2-4. Our kindergarten and 1st grade students did a lot of hands-on learning and will not have data show up in Powerschool.

COMING EVENTS

November

- 18 Board of Education Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 25 Compassion Assembly by first grade
- 26-28 NO SCHOOL- Thanksgiving Break

December

- 1-5 Book Fair
- 2 K-2 Parent Literacy Night
- 3 3-4 Parent Literacy Night
- 4 Marco's Pizza Night (fundraiser)
- 8 Market Day Pick Up 5:30- 6:30
P.T.O. Meeting 6:30
- 16 Board of Education 7:00 p.m.
- 19 End of 2nd Nine Weeks
- 22 NO SCHOOL- Winter Break

January

- 5 CLASSES RESUME