



Birchwood Clipboard

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1st-2nd Gym

Relay Race is the name of the game. Not only do relays reinforce following directions, train for timing, encourage coordination, and require cooperation, but the kids love it! We tried many different kinds from running to leapfrog. Adding a ball from the sports played this year will make for more creative fun.

1st Spanish

The students learned vocabulary about clothing and parts of the face. They played a game “Simon dice” to reinforce the new vocabulary. They practiced the “Cancionero,” which is a collection of the songs they learned during the school year.

2nd Spanish

The students learned words about family members and animals. They played charades with the names of the animals. They also memorized the new vocabulary and played a contest with the words. The students read books and identified words known to them.

3rd-4th Language Arts

This was the quarter for students who had been bothered by contests with word limits to write a story without one. They began by writing a chapter book, which many of them later chose to submit to the *Creative Communications* story-writing contest in early March. (This competition had a 1500-word limit.) Afterward, some of the students chose to publish their books and even offer them for sale on lulu.com, an online publishing site. The March *Cricket* contest had a very interesting prompt: write a story about meeting a famous person. Even though the deadline immediately followed that of the previous contest, enough historical fiction lovers among us wanted to write their own stories that the opportunity was too good to pass up. Students wrote remarkable tales of meeting such great men and women as Jane Addams, Davy Crockett, Milton Hershey, and even Bill Gates!

3rd Social Studies

The students recently completed a four-week Pilgrim simulation in which they become “Pilgrims” and sailed the Atlantic to reach the New World. Once there, they encountered a myriad of hardships including writing a fair Mayflower Compact, building houses, finding food, making peace with the Native Americans whose language they did not know, finding a way to pay off their debts to the merchants in England, and generally struggling to stay alive. Most of the teams managed to come through with more survivors than the Pilgrims did, and all of them learned that living and working together in a hostile environment was a huge challenge for these brave newcomers to America.

4th Social Studies

The fourth graders completed their study of Ohio history with a research project on a famous Ohioan. They had many topics to choose from since Ohio has produced a plethora of great people, such as eight presidents, the creative genius Thomas Edison, sharpshooter Annie Oakley, and flight pioneers Orville and Wilbur Wright, John Glenn, and Neil Armstrong. Students used library books, encyclopedias, websites, and even a visit to a historical home to learn more about the Ohio person they had chosen. They took notes from their sources, compiled them into a short research paper, and then shared what they had learned with the class via a short oral presentation.

3rd Spanish

The students started reading aloud from their Spanish books to practice correct pronunciations. They learned to use the days of the week and basic greetings in conversations with their classmates.

4th Spanish

The students started learning the Spanish grammar by using proper pronouns, plurals, and adjectives. They memorized new words and they liked to have competitions about the vocabulary.

3rd-4th Thinking Skills

After several months of brainstorming, planning, and preparing, the third and fourth grade class ran the school's Harvest for Hunger campaign. All together, they collected \$585.35 and so much food that it took the class two trips to take all the food over to the Bountiful Basement, the hunger center located on the Ascension property!

The third and fourth grade students brought in baked goods for the bake sale on science night and the fourth grade students planned and ran booths during science night. Vikas, Samir, and Nicholas ran a puzzle booth. Alex, Marla, Sarah, and Hannah ran the marble race. Hassan ran a BIONICLE booth. Max, Amir, and Brad hosted a ball-toss booth. Alexander and Trevor ran a booth where people voted for best offensive, defensive, special teams and collegiate players in 2006. If you wanted to shoot a rubber band gun you went to Ishan, Sean, and Aaron's booth. Nikola took the candy he won and then sold it.

They want to thank the parents who baked delicious treats to sell at the bake sale (there was not a single crumb left over!), the parents and students who came to their booths, and the generosity of the entire school to bring can goods and money for Harvest for Hunger.

6th Reading

We read the folklore of other countries, studying how the tales reflect cultural values and how motifs helped the teller vividly transmit the tale. Then each student prepared one tale for retelling to the class. You should have been there – we were entranced! enraptured! enthralled!

As you can see, this class is all caught up in the enchanting language of Kenneth Graham, author of *Wind in the Willows*. The room is wild with the excitement of language as we share favorite portions gathered like gold from this breathtakingly beautiful, hilariously humorous book voluminously filled with voracious vocabulary.

Oh yes....we are preparing for the standardized tests as well. Ho-hum but necessary.

Congrats to Oliver Deak who won an honorable mention for his poem entered in the *Cricket Magazine* Contest on the theme of winter. See it displayed in the downstairs hallway.

5th Science

Students have gone through their first year of science fair and many are already thinking about what they would like to tackle next year. They spent the last three weeks learning about mountain building and the movements of rock within the earth.

6th Science

Congratulations to Serena for her research on how chemistry is important in our homes. She presented her information as a mini poster to the local chapter of the American Chemical Society. Her poster will represent our region in the national competition.

Congratulations to Arthur who took his science fair project, "Windmill Improving Efficiency," to the District 5 Science Day in Akron on March 17th. He earned a "Superior" rating and a first place in the engineering category!

The class spent the last three weeks of the quarter on chapter 5, Change Over Time.

5th Spanish

The students are very familiar using the Spanish-English dictionary. They made phrases using new words. The students started learning verbs and grammatical rules. They are able to follow a dialogue with their partners. They learned different rooms in a house and the furniture utilized in each room. They also studied the "Lopez" House. By describing their own houses, they had an opportunity to use the verbs tener (to have) and estar (to be).

6th Spanish

The students worked in groups and practice dialogues about meals. They described the meals they preferred to eat by using the verbs gustar (to like) and comer (to eat). The students learned different meals eaten in the Latin American countries in comparison to the United States.

8th Reading

Finishing our study of *Romeo and Juliet*, students are now picking up their pens as bards. Applying style elements to quatrains, clerihew and sonnet forms they are writing poems on the plot, characters and themes of the play. It's not easy, but these seasoned poets dive right in.

We also recently completed the book, *Night* by Elie Wiesel. This short stark book won the Pulitzer Prize. After a discussion examining all that was lost during the author's experience during the holocaust, students will write poems on the theme of loss.

Finally, before the quarter's end, our Junior Great Books discussion from the book *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou will uncover the dreams and hopes of African Americans which were forged through the fire of discrimination. In this memoir, the 8th grade Angelou drew courage from the poems of "The Black and Unknown Bards" of her race. And we, of course, will write poems – this time on themes bearing strong feelings.

7th Science

Congratulations to Ani! Even though he was doing History Day, he took his project, "Presence of Solids in Scrubber Protects Bacteria from Microwave Radiation," to the North East Science and Engineering Fair March 12 –15, where he earned a second place in the environmental sciences division. He also took his project to the District 5 Science Day in Akron on March 17th, and earned an "Excellent" rating.

Seventh graders created Power Point presentations on work and simple machines and then finished the quarter studying energy.

8th Science

Students looked at the circulatory system and respiratory system. These last weeks they experimented to compare their vital capacity, their **expiratory reserve**, and their tidal volume before and after exercising.

7th Spanish

The students learned the way people in San Antonio, Texas celebrate their birthdays, weddings, etc. They observed the Spanish influence in Miami and other places in United State. They researched the culture in Puerto Rico, including famous people, dances, music, and endangered animals of the island. This research will help them write their speech for the play "Visit Puerto Rico" that will be presented on May 18, 2007.

8th Spanish

The students studied verbs in past tense and direct objects pronouns. During the class I speak Spanish and they are able to ask questions and follow a conversation. The students wrote a play "Visit Puerto Rico" in Spanish and English, which will be presented on May 18, 2007. The story is about three cousins and one tourist guide and their visit to the rainforest and the beach.

Power of the Pen

The regional competition was held on March 10 at Wiley Middle School, Cleveland Heights. Our representatives for the seventh grade were **Sahar A, Tim C, and Shulamite C. Samuel B, Margret E, Ben G, Eileen J, and Henna T** comprised the eighth grade team who came in fourth at the competition. **Margret** placed first among the eighth grade writers and also received a Best of Rounds award. At the end of May, **Margret** and **Henna** will compete at the state level.

Although it was a high-powered region of the strongest schools in the area, most all of our students had papers that ranked first in their room for two of the three rounds. Great performance overall.

A big thank you to Mrs. Kufahl who accompanied us the entire day to judge at the competition.

Future Problem Solving Program

Congratulations to the following teams who are qualifiers for the Ohio State Bowl:

Deepak K (5)	Sahar A (7)	Nicholas B (8)	Ani D (7)
Miguel P (5)	Jacques D (7)	Sam B (8)	Margret E (8)
Miranda M (5)	Sarah L (7)	Forde R (7)	Chloe P (8)
Nardine T (5)	Lina W (7)	Nik R (8)	Henna T (8)

Going as alternates and competing as individuals are Tim C, Shulamite C, and Tarek J. Kudos to all!

They will compete on April 27 and 28 at Nordonia High School with all the other FPS teams from Ohio. The topic for the state bowl is "Care for the Elderlies."

Geography Bee

Earlier this quarter, the school held our annual National Geographic Geography Bee. After various classroom bees, two students from each class qualified to participate in the school bee. Participants from the 4th grade were Sarah D and Nicholas J. This year we had a third student from the 4th grade qualify, and that was Trevor L. From the 5th grade, Mohammed M and Arthur E participated. Jacob D and Thomas W qualified from the 6th grade. The qualifying 7th grade students were Jacques D and Sarah L. From the 8th grade, Chloe P and Tarek J participated in the school bee.

After a hard fought competition, and many challenging geography questions, we had three place winners. In third place was Tarek J, in second place was Sarah L, and the school Geography Bee winner was Jacob D. Following the school competition, Jacob took a very difficult written test to qualify for the state competition. From the scores on the written test, 100 students qualify for the state competition. On March 1, the school received the exciting news that Jacob had qualified to participate in the state bee on March 30! He is the first student from Birchwood to qualify for this very competitive contest. Congratulations to Jacob and good luck at the state bee!!

History Day

On Saturday, March 24, the 7th and 8th grade class, along with two 6th graders, participated at the district level of the National History Day competition held at Case Western Reserve University. The students have much to be proud of, with many place finishes as well as some special awards. In the Historical Paper category, Lina W placed second and Thomas W received an honorable mention. Both will submit their papers for the state competition. In the Individual Performance category, Margret E placed first, Nicholas B placed second, and Chloe P placed third. All will advance to the state competition. In the Group Performance category, Henna T and Eileen J placed first and Briana K, Riza M, and Sahar A placed second. Again, all will advance to the state contest. In the Group Documentary category, Sam B and Nik R placed first. In the Individual Documentary category, Shulamite C placed first, Ani D placed second, Tarek J placed third, and Jacques D received an honorable mention. All of these documentaries advanced to the state competition. In the Individual Exhibit category, Sarah L placed first, Jack T placed third, and Caitlin S received an honorable mention. All three boards will compete at the state competition. In addition, Ani D and Chloe P received a military history award from the Cleveland Grays, and Chloe received an award from the Civil War Roundtable for the best entry on Civil War history. Congratulations to all for their accomplishments and good luck at the state competition on May 5!