Welcome to the Acacia Academy Newsletter Highlighting all School Programs Including Elementary, High School, and Transition Program!

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Welcome to the March newsletter for Junior High!

Here's what Ms. Debbie and Ms. Amanda's classes accomplished this month:

Reading/Writing:

This semester, junior high is splitting up into reading groups every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. They are currently wrapping up reading Among the Hidden. What is Legos group finished their book and learned a lot of interesting facts about Legos. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, our junior highers' continue to work on the six traits of writing on various writing prompts. Ms. Debbie's class is currently writing a mystery. Ms. Amanda's class learned about the R.A.C.E writing strategy and is using evidence to back up their writing responses.

Math:

Both classes focus on the order of operations. Ms. Amanda's class also started identifying algebraic terms and combining like terms.

Social Studies:

Ancient Egypt - Both classes enjoyed their time at the Chicago Field Museum. They wrote their names in hieroglyphics on real papyrus. Students also researched an ancient civilization of their choice and created a Power Point presentation to share with their class.

Science

Music:

& Forensic Science:

Students learned about finger printing and analyzing handwriting.

We introduced our students to the recorder. They learned the notes to play part of hot cross buns.

Art:

Ms. Amanda and Ms. Debbie's class participated in a painting session. They all did an amazing job, and we are excited to hang them up at the art show.

St. Patrick's Day:

This month, we participated in tasting soda bread, trying green river and listing to our high school friend Carlos play the bagpipes.

As we march into a new month, we are excited to share what's been happening in the classroom. We have a busy and fun-filled month ahead, and we'd love to keep you informed about our lessons and activities!

Public Transportation:
Safety & Road Signs

This month in Public Transportation, we are focusing on the importance of safety and road signs. We're learning to identify different road signs and understand their meanings, which will help us stay safe when traveling on the roads. Our students have been practicing how to recognize signs, and we look forward to more hands-on activities to reinforce these crucial lessons.

Math:
Units of Measurement

In Math, we're diving into the world of measurement! We've started by measuring objects around the room using various units of measurement. We've been exploring how to measure accurately. Over the next few weeks, we'll continue practicing and expanding our measurement skills with different activities and real-world applications.

History
The Boston Tea Party
&
The First Continental Congress

In History, we're turning back the pages of time to explore key events in American history.

This month, we're learning about the Boston Tea Party and the First Continental Congress. Students are discovering how these events shaped the course of history and played a significant role in the American Revolution. We're excited to continue our journey through these important historical moments!

Thank you for your continued support and involvement. We're looking forward to a fantastic month ahead!

We are all looking forward to spring break! We hope you are, too.

We are ending the month in English by working on a research project involving artificial intelligence (AI). AI is a great tool for finding sources and helping us write better essays. We hope to show off our research and creations at the Art Fair.

In U.S. History, we are discussing westward expansion and frontier life. This will include discussing and playing "The Oregon Trail" computer game. Hopefully, the students will make it all the way! We will end the month by learning about the Mexican-American War, which resulted in the United States gaining more land—Manifest Destiny at its finest.

Lastly, thanks to the wonderful weather, we are starting to go outside more. We have been discussing healthy eating and body image, but we have also used class time to review and play the sports we participated in during the fall semester.
Getting outside daily is the plan—the students enjoy it, and we all need vitamin D.

Ms. Shakirah's classes have been working on proportions. They have learned how to cross multiply fractions and divide to find the unknown. They love

the butterfly technique to remember which numbers to cross multiply. We have also been creating 3D model city scenes for STEAM. So, be on the look out for them during the Art show April 17th.

In Ms. Shakirah's Art classes students have learned about 3-line art (a straight line for the horizon, a circle for the sun or moon and a squiggly or sharp line for the water or mountains).

Ms. Shakirah's classes also learned about overlapping art .

This project uses the elements of Line, Color & Shape.

There are three kinds of shapes:
Geometric: Shapes made out of points and lines.
Organic: Shapes that occur in nature.
Free Form: Shapes that are irregular and uneven.

Ms. Shakirah's Public Transportation classes have been enjoying learning about traffic signs and signals as well as learning about driving on the road.

Health:

Students have been learning about the effects of pollution on health as well as our environment. We discussed many ways we can make a positive impact by cleaning up trash, reducing our use of fossil fuels, and finding alternatives to reduce pollution. We also spent time discussing our consumer choices on products we use every day and how to find information to select the right products that are safe for us. Thinking about our environment, we will be starting our

spring plants indoors so they are ready to be planted in the Nature Center garden once the weather gets better.

Art:

The past few weeks students have been learning about Op Art, Cubism, and Pointillism. We discussed several artists, including Victor Vasarely, Bridget Riley, Pablo Picasso, and Georges Seurat. Students explored these art styles by creating their own Optical Illusion art piece, a Cubism art piece using recycled materials, and Pointillism by using acrylic markers.

English:

We are continuing with figurative language and grammar conventions. Students are practicing adding more details to their writing to make the reader feel more engaged. We have been reading a few different short stories analyzing figurative language and have had great discussions.

During the month of March, the Transition class is focusing on future career opportunities and creating documents needed for a job search.

We had a meet and greet with the store manager at Whole Foods in Hinsdale. He talked with us about real expectations of an employee at a store such as Whole Foods and how the employee attitude and performance are crucial in making the overall positive

experience for the customer every time someone goes there to shop. He gave the students great advice when filling out a store application and which applications he really takes the time to read through and which ones are discarded.

The next week we learned about entrepreneurship. In class we talked about all the pros and cons of being an entrepreneur and what type of skills each student has to offer if they decided entrepreneurship was the right career path for them.

One of our former Transition classmate's that aged out last year is a successful entrepreneur. Soaps by Celeste is a thriving business! We met up with Celeste at an ability fair in Arlington Heights. She had a booth alongside many other local entrepreneurs of all different types of abilities. There were many other transition class's from all over the Chicagoland area at the ability fair. Our Transition students have many talents that could lead to success in entrepreneurship. Attending the fair sparked many ideas for them!

If you would like to buy soaps or learn more about Celeste, please click on the link below.

https://soapsbyceleste.com/

We also visited Firehouse Subs and met with the store manager for an informative talk about what it would be like to work at a Firehouse subs (or really any restaurant for that matter). We were given a tour of the entire restaurant - even

behind the counter and the back room. As an extra bonus the manager treated the entire class to a free sub sandwich!

One of our worksites is Marriott Hotel. The Transition students work with the housekeeping staff. Marriott is a very nice hotel with high standards. The transition students sort the towels and bedding, use the industrial washing machines and dyers, fold each towel according to Marriott specifications, and iron sheets. Marriott is a job that requires attention to detail. The expectations of our students are to meet the standards of the hotel, just as it is for all the other employees at Marriott.

Holi is a celebration of welcoming spring. It's celebration of changing of colors & growth. Families & friends, young & old, even if you're having an issue, come together. They celebrate with bright colors, music, dancing, and food. There is no judgement. Everyone has a good time.

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