

GSS Gifted Newsletter

Winter 2019

[Ms. Taylor's Gifted Resource Classes](#)

In Ms. Taylor's gifted resource in grade 5, students are learning about the quilt patterns in relationship to the Underground Railroad. They are also doing a service project for Kindergarten and making snowflake ornaments for the students. In 4th grade, students are researching and creating a poster to do a "TeachAround" where students teach other students, in this case, about the Boston Tea Party. In 6th and 7th grade, students are completing myths on Ancient Greece and helping with the service project for Kindergarten by creating ornaments and reading stories to the kindergarten students as part of goals in leadership in the community.

[Ms. Bourne's Gifted Resource Classes](#)

Science Olympiad Tryouts

Science Olympiad Tryouts for 3rd-5th graders will be the first two weeks of January. Information about the events during tryouts can be found on Google Classroom. Join with classroom code: **y4qufl**

Ms. Bourne's class participated in the Hour of Code during the week of December 9th. All students are able to log onto www.code.org and learn about computer science and create coding projects.

Before Thanksgiving, students designed and built boats to see which boat would hold the most marbles. Students could only use egg cartons, craft sticks, tinfoil, tape, and glue. We had fun seeing which boats would hold the most.

[Mr. Water's Gifted Resource Classes](#)

Students will design a unique miniature 3D version of a tiny house based on their own ideas, imagination, and application of skills. This learning based activity focuses on using multiple problem solving skills, real-world application of math concepts, while practicing problem-solving skills. Students will find the area and perimeter of each item. The tiny house will contain almost 20 different pieces of furnishings. This project allows students to have fun and use their imagination.

[Mrs. Carter's Gifted Resource Classes](#)

Mrs. Carter's gifted resource classes have just finished up a STEM unit. The students designed boats to see which boat would hold the most pennies. The students were given aluminum foil and pennies. We had one boat that held 243 pennies! This activity focused on problem-solving skills and real-world application of math concepts.

Students are currently working with a partner to research a country. Students worked together to complete a project about their country to present to the class. We are also making ornaments from each country to decorate our classroom holiday tree.

[Mrs. Harlin's Gifted Resource Class](#)

We are working on systems through making Crystals by using different materials and observing the differences in the reactions to various materials. My students are working on Problem-based learning through Escape Rooms, and STEM activities. Right now, they are Christmas themed (building the tallest towers using toothpicks and Gumdrops). Upcoming competitions include Quiz Bowl and Science Olympiad.

[Mrs. Silver's Gifted Resource Class](#)

Mrs. Silver's class is currently completing a DBQ (Document Based Question) about Cabeza de Vaca, a European Explorer. We just finished our Native American Study, and before that completed our Egypt Study. Try outs for the Science Olympiad team and the Quiz Bowl team will be in January.

[Mrs. Shaw's Gifted Resource Classes](#)

Greetings Families!

In 2nd and 3rd grade Gifted Resource classes with Mrs. Shaw, the school year seems to be racing by! We opened the first semester with getting to know one another through the composition and presentation of our own "Bio-Poems" that gave self-descriptions, as well as, providing interests, likes, and in some cases dislikes! Our first exploration was in the world of Chess! Students completed online research reports of the history of chess and the game's rules of play. Chess practice will continue as an on-going yearlong activity as we eagerly anticipate representing Godley Station School as participants in the annual district-wide chess tournament in the spring. Currently Mrs. Shaw's 2nd grade Gifted Resource Class is exploring Ancient China's

contributions and influences to the rest of the world. Learning activities have these students doing a range of tasks from mapping out Ancient Civilizations of China to comparing/contrasting the Chinese version of Cinderella to the familiar English version. At this time, Mrs. Shaw's 3rd grade Gifted Resource Class is engaged in rigorous mathematics by making sense of and persevering through algebraic problem solving with a highly regarded method, known as "Hands-on Equations", created by Dr. Henry Borenson. These students have been performing like brilliant mathematicians with advanced algebraic thinking.

It has been a pleasure to work with both Gifted Resource classes this first half of the school year and I look forward to furthering our academic growth together! Have a very blessed Christmas and holiday season. I wish you a happy New Year!

[Ms. Dennerlein's Gifted Resource Classes](#)

First grade investigated characteristics and basic needs of plants and animals. First grade read Johnny Appleseed identifying the parts of Apples and then pumpkins. Second grade read the Ox Cart Man and investigated the barter system of the early 1800's. Third grade is reading *The Sign of the Beaver*, focusing on what life was like for early settlers and Native Americans prior to the Revolutionary War. Sixth grade completed the novel *Chasing Vermeer* utilizing deductive/logical reasoning skills to solve the theft of a priceless Vermeer painting. Making connections between random ideas and unexplained mysteries fueled their imagination. In 8th grade, we will continue researching global issues, i.e. climate change. Further recent news headlines have highlighted the need for love, respect, and tolerance across our nation. In attempt to help students comprehend these struggles and the ability to make a difference, we are exploring "Teaching with Tolerance", coordinated by the SHOAH Foundation and National Geographic.

[Mrs. Greene's Gifted Resource Class](#)

Mrs. Greene's Gifted class has been working on many fun projects! We read about the history of Halloween in order to escape from our haunted escape room. We wrote original stories that we read to Mrs. Pearce's 1st grade class. To celebrate Thanksgiving, we built Mayflower ships to see which ship would float. We have worked on riddles and puzzles. Every day, we listen to The 6 Minute Podcast. It is a suspenseful drama that keeps us on the edge of our seats. Currently, we are researching Holidays Around the World and teaching our classmates what we learn. We have been busy learning and having fun!

