

WALDEN WEEKLY

Educating the whole person is our commitment. Focusing on social, intellectual, emotional, and physical aspects of learning ensures each student reaches his or her highest potential, need for self-fulfillment and self-actualization. Our ultimate goal is accomplished when our students invest in and take ownership of their education and their futures.

Announcements

- The door is always open for any and all parents who would like to schedule a meeting to discuss your child's progress at WCS!
- Surf Club is starting this Friday, May 15th!
- Don't forget to check out our Facebook page for even more pictures!
- WRAT testing is complete. We will be using the data as part of your child's formative assessment at the end of the year.
- Memorial Day is May 25th - school is closed.
- Our last day of school for the 2014-2015 school year is Friday, June 5th.

Reading and Social Studies

The Senior Walnuts continued with the Cold War this week. On Monday the group began the day reviewing by discussing the Essential Question, "Why do competing world powers come into conflict?" After an engaging discussion, the students broke up to work on their individual projects. They will begin presenting next week!



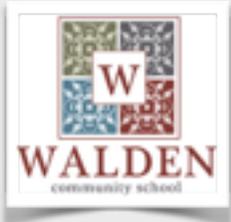
On Tuesday, the group investigated the Red Scare and McCarthyism by exploring varied websites and printed out text. As they were researching, they began discussing the EQ, "To what extent was fear a factor in the Cold War?" The students

worked with peers, sharing their discoveries and continuing the EQ discussion. After the group came together, we brought the discussion whole-group and added the EQ, "What other events in history were partially fear-based?"

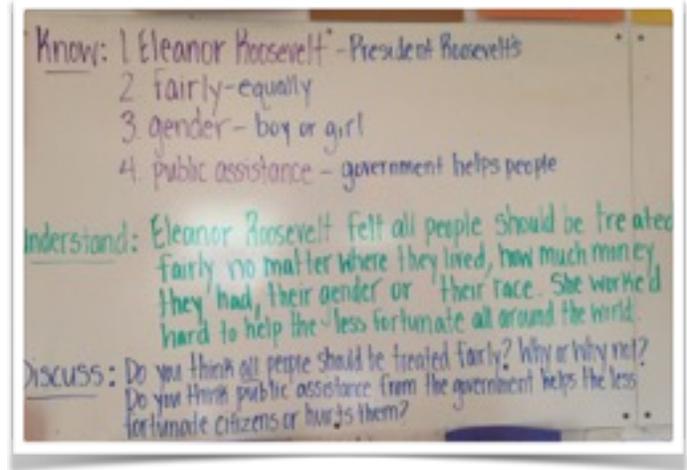
Wednesday brought an exploration of new technologies developed during the Cold War, always a class favorite! The class began by sharing technologies they had already discovered through their various class readings and independent research, list. After learning that the microwave was accidentally invented

they worked together to begin a as a scientist was working on radar detection to be used in the self-defense of our country, the group began delving into seeing what other technologies they could discover. As technologies were discovered, they were added to the board and briefly discussed and shared with the group. They were amazing at how many technologies they discovered that were originally developed for battle or self-defense projects and are now still used in our everyday lives! They self-recorded their favorites and then reflected on what life would be like today without a particular technology/technologies.

- Wizard of Oz performances:
Wednesday, June 3rd in the afternoon and
Thursday, June 4th in the evening.



The Senior Walnuts ended the week by using what they've learned about the era to analyze political cartoons from the Cold War. They randomly chose a cartoon and, using peer collaboration, analyzed the text and image. From such topics as the arms race, to the Red Scare/McCarthyism, to the irony of the amazing amount of nuclear weapons amassed on both sides without a "hot" war ever erupting, the students explored and discussed these primary documents.



In social studies, the Juniors finished up the Civil Rights unit as we added new leaders and stimulating essential questions. We reviewed by defining the Civil Rights moment again. As each student added words to the word bubble, the definition unfolded as 'a fight for freedom and equality for all'. The week started by rewinding back to the abolition of slavery as Susan B. Anthony was re-introduced. The students discussed how the end of slavery was one of the true beginnings of the Civil Rights moment. As the students read passages in their reading groups about Susan B. Anthony, they began to discover that Susan B. Anthony was a determined African American women who fought nonviolently for equal rights for all women. They each answered a set of comprehension questions based on the content they read. They were asked, "How was the Women's Suffrage Movement similar to the African American Civil Rights Movement? Different? Is there still a Civil Rights Movement going on today for African Americans? Women? Other groups?" The next day Mary McLeod Bethune was recognized as an African American women who used her creativity to start a school for black children so they could get a good education like their white peers. At that time, schools for blacks were scarce and the ones that existed were inadequate. After reading on Ms. Bethune, watching a video clip and answering question the students discussed, "What is creativity? How could Mary McCleod Bethune have used creativity to help a school grow larger? How could you use creativity to help something grow?" The week concluded with the study of Eleanor Roosevelt who we learned was a determined woman who believed all people should be treated fairly no matter where they lived, how much money they had, their gender or their race. The students read about Eleanor and answered aligned

comprehension questions. They were asked, "Do you think *all* people should be treated fairly *all* the time? Why? Is there ever an exception? Do you think that public assistance by the government helps less fortunate citizens or hurts them? Why?"

Writing

This week the Senior Walnuts completed their creative writing pieces on Monday. Some students shared their piece with a peer and peer-suggested recommended areas where more details could be added. Others independently read their completed and typed story and added more details, focusing on using adjectives and adverbs.



Reading and Social Studies

- Cold War
- Korean and Vietnam Wars
- Fluency / Comprehension

Science Lab

- Air and Wind
- Period Table and Matter review

Writing

- Proper Nouns, Pronouns, Abbreviations / Narrative
- Adverbs / Introductions and Conclusions / Comparing and Contrasting Essay

Math

- Geometry Review / Fractions
- Decimal operations review / Multi-Digit (short) Division / Geometry

Creative Arts

- Making the Set and Props
- Wizard of Oz Practice

Physical Literacy

- Badminton

On Tuesday the Senior Walnuts began writing a persuasive writing to convince People Magazine that their mother should be "Mother of the Year." They began the week by brainstorming reasons why they believe makes their mom's great. They then took this list and added details to their ideas. As the week progressed, the students reviewed that an effective way to persuade a reader is by stating reasons and then backing up these reasons with examples. The group wrote their persuasive writing throughout the week, most editing and writing a final draft neatly. Most of the students used brought these pieces home to their own mothers for Mother's Day.



The Juniors began each language arts block by reviewing the basics with phonics and sight word games such as, Bingo, Be The Teacher, I Have, Who Has and Roll A Word. Grammar introduced adverbs where the students first watched School House Rock's *Lolly, Lolly, Lolly, Get Your Adverbs Here* and then Grammaropolis's *The Adverb Song*. As the students sang, "What kind of word tells about a verb? Adverbs! Adverbs! When! Where! How!", they identified and described adverbs. Ms. Molli wrote a list of sentences on the board with each containing an adverb. The students took turns underlining the adverb in each sentence. Then the class moved between two centers. One group was given a stack of note cards with different adverbs written on them. Their assignment was to come up with a skit using all the adverbs listed on the cards and then present to the class. The other group played Adverb Candy Land where players pulled cards and answered questions to identify adverbs as they moved along the colorful, game board. No one liked the dreadful 'Skip A Turn' card but all in all it was an engaging way to study adverbs. As an informal assessment, the students worked individually to identify adverbs in sentences on a worksheet. Reading fluency this week included leveled passages about the continued Civil Rights topics we are studying in social studies. To assess comprehension, each student answered a set of critical thinking questions about each passage read. As the week progressed, the questions got deeper and the students worked more independently to answer them.



The Juniors practiced writing friendly letters this week in lieu of Mother's Day. Through music videos and graphic organizers students practiced properly writing the date, heading, body, and closing. They

seemed to really enjoy filling out the envelope (including the stamp) the most! You could tell the Juniors have an abundance of love for their mothers!

Math

This week the Senior Walnuts worked on various math skills. One student focused on addition and subtraction word problems requiring borrowing - using place value manipulatives as needed/desired and using a highlighter to identify the words in the problem that let her know what operation to use. Other students completed their multi-digit division practice/introduction by working on independently solving leveled problems and then using a calculator to check their answers. Any that they got wrong, they looked back at their work / analyzed their thinking to figure out where they made their mistake. The students practiced various methods for solving these operations and chose their favorite when independently solving, checking, and problem-solving solutions. These students have really improved in using mental math and understandings behind the methods. Other students continued exploring Geometry through activities dealing with perimeter, area, and volume of complex geometric shapes.

A couple of the Senior Walnut students also worked one day this week with a new volunteer to Walden, Ms. Bonnie Burke. A retired teacher with lots of years of experience, especially in math, Ms. Bonnie is excited to have the opportunity to share her love of teaching with students and really loves Walden!



The Junior Mathematicians began the week with a math music concert. The students sang the lyrics of their favorite songs as they skipped and danced around the room. Some of the favorites included, 'I Can Add Doubles' and the 'Multiply By Seven' to the tune of 'Billy Boy'.

After using music to review some of the basics each day, the student cooled down and then broke up to work individually on their differentiated review packets which included fact families, multiplication facts, time, fractions, geometry, doubles, and word problems just to name a few.

The students then broke up into groups to rotate between centers where they worked on their unit studies by playing online games, singing along to music videos, working out problems with paper and pencil worksheets or playing a mini-white board Q & A game

with Ms. Molli. The younger group continued with place value while the older group focused on division,

For place value, one lesson involved reading a double digit number from a card and then coloring in an image of base ten blocks accordingly. Next to where they colored in the blocks they wrote down how many tens and how many ones were represented by the picture. They took it one step further by writing the number in expanded form. Another lesson had the students look at number and then write down the value of each underlined digit. A final lesson asked students to come up with a single digit to fill in



the blank for how many 'tens' and how many 'ones'. Then the student translated that by writing down what two digit number that represented..

The older group explored division. Their lessons included drawing pictures of arrays to illustrate the answer to a division equation as well as writing division equations to represent arrays. By the end of the week, the students were both drawing a picture and writing an equation for the written form of a division problem!

Science Lab

In Science Lab this week the Senior Walnuts began with an outside activity to review the parts of an atom. They were randomly assigned to act as a proton, neutron, or electron and, using a large atomic model drawn on the basketball court with chalk, worked together to "act out" an atom. After switching roles several times, the students went back inside to independently label their own atom on paper. The group then received their own copy of the periodic table and discussed what they knew about it and/or noticed by observing it. They then watched an introductory video about the Periodic Table on BrainPop, a class favorite!



The Junior Scientists were asked, "What is the sun and what is it made of?" Ms. Molli recorded their answers by starting a KWL chart on the board. After listing some additional questions we had, the class watched a National Geographic clip on the stars of the universe. The students were amazed at the images they saw. They learned that although the sun can fit 1.3 million Earths inside of it, it is still one of the smaller stars in the universe. Then the class followed along as Ms. Molli read 'Our Sun'. She made purposeful mistakes along the way to ensure the students were following along in a game she likes to call "Correct The Teacher." For example, Ms. Molli said 'moon' when it read 'sun' and where it read 'hot' she said 'cold'. After reading, the students worked in pairs to answer questions based on what they read about the sun. The lesson finale included creating their own constellation viewer. By rolling up black card stock paper and attaching it securely the students built their frame. Then they used circle cut out replicas of famous constellations to poke holes in black card stock. They attached their famous constellation replicas and viewed the magic by holding it up to the light. Then they created their own constellations and named them!

Creative Arts

All walnuts worked on top-secret play backdrops and props this week that are completely student-designed and created! All Walnuts also spent Thursday running through the whole play for the first time all together, complete with costume changes and use of completed props.

The Walnuts are working hard on the timing and smooth transitions in their scripts and stage placement (blocking) for their Wizard of Oz performances! They look forward to showing of their hard work to you all! The dates of the Wizard of Oz performance will be Wednesday, June 3rd in the afternoon and Thursday, June 4th in the evening. Please plan accordingly as we will need all Walnuts in attendance!



Physical Literacy

Physical literacy this week started off with a well deserved 'Free Day' where all Walnuts were free to run and play. Some worked on excavating artifacts using large shovels to plow through dirt, others worked on building fort structures and yet some spent the time running around playing 'Dragon Catchers'.

The following day, the students buckled down and focused on the importance of the warm up and cool down. After running the usual laps and doing sprint drills, the students made a stretching circle. By emphasizing silence the students could focus on doing stretches properly and listening to their breathing and the sounds of nature that we so often miss. Ms. Molli then introduced the sport of Badminton by introducing the object of the game and the equipment used to play the game. The students learned how to hold the racquets and how to hit the shuttlecock both overhand and underhand. The students

rotated between two centers. In the first center they worked individually bouncing the shuttlecock on their racquet as many times in a row as they could without letting their shuttlecock hit the ground. In the other center students paired up to practice hitting the shuttlecock with the racquet both underhand and overhand. One partner threw the shuttlecock while the other hit it back.

The next day the Seniors started off playing Follow The Leader as a warm up. Ms. Molli started off leading the group with skips, gallops and high knees. As each student rotated to take the lead, the class followed along hopping over flower beds and ducking under hammocks. Then the Seniors took turns playing a 2 on 2 game of Badminton. Ms. Molli was very impressed at the lengthy rallies! The same day, the Juniors started off with a giant dice tossing game as a warm up. Each side of the dice listed a specific exercise with a specific number of reps. As the students stood in a circle the dice was passed around and the face pointing up when the student caught it was the exercise the group performed. Unfortunately (or fortunately depending on how you look at it), a rain storm came so the Juniors moved indoors for a free, expression dance session to their favorite music. This was a big hit!

