

8 Green Newsletter



Spreading Kindness & Positivity

Last Friday, we spent Team Time discussing what it means to pay it forward with kindness. After small class discussions on the topic, students helped create a "Wall of Positivity" outside our classrooms. The idea was to write something positive for someone to pick up if they're having a bad day. Students rose to the challenge and created a wall that will continue to "give back" throughout the year!



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

We wish you all a safe and happy holiday season! Enjoy time spent with family and friends, and make sure to stay warm!



COLD & FLU SEASON

The time has come yet again. Any classroom donations of tissues, hand sanitizer or wipes would be greatly appreciated! We're trying to stay as germ-free as possible!



COMMUNITY NEWS

Join the Shrewsbury community in a celebration of music! The annual *Caroling on the Common* will take place on Friday Dec. 23 at 7 pm at the Shrewsbury Common (across from the Shrewsbury Library). All are welcome to join in the singing. Hot chocolate will be served. Wear warm clothes and hats and gloves. This event brings the community together in an annual New England tradition!

What's happening in the classroom?

ELA

We have now started our second unit: Crispin and the Cross of Lead. In this unit, students are reading an historical fiction novel based in the Middle Ages. They will analyze the novel for evidence of religion, social structure and setting to best understand people's lives at that time. Prior to getting their novels, students created an infographic about a topic from this time period: Village life, city life, Feudalism, the Black Plague, castle life and religion. When students return from the holiday break, they will be choosing a research topic to pursue for their research essay.

Math

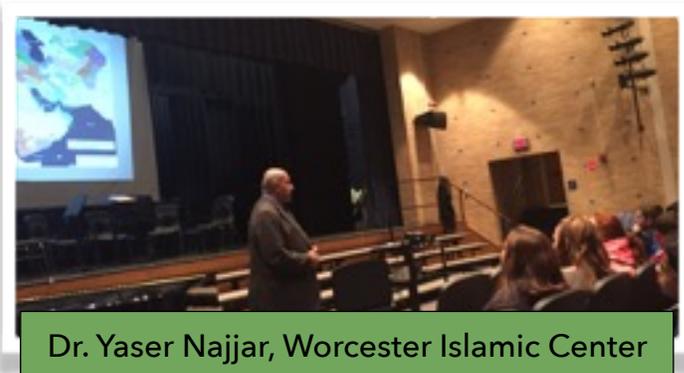
In math we are learning how to use mathematics to approximate real-world data. We started by investigating how linear functions can be used to model particular data sets by using a line of best fit. Students developed an understanding of slope and y-intercept and wrote equations to represent the line that modeled the data. They could then use the function to make predictions. We will also look at data organized in two-way tables and draw conclusions about the information provided. While we study data, I encourage the students to think critically about the information provided and how the data was collected.

Science

We just wrapped up the Elements and Compounds Unit. We will be finishing up chemistry by focusing on chemical and physical changes. They will also know the difference between pure substances and mixtures.

Social Studies

We are studying the history of Islam, early Islamic societies, and their contributions to our world. Through research, this history is being connected to current world issues such as the proposed Muslim cemetery in Dudley, MA and the Yemen Conflict. Recently, we had the privilege of having Dr. Yaser Najjar from the Worcester Islamic Center and Framingham State University present to us on December 12th. To end the unit, students are creating projects that must contribute towards a solution for their current issue. For example, some students are writing letters to state government officials, creating posters to put up around the school and teach others, and posting PSA videos on Youtube. It has been inspiring to see my students feel empowered to make a positive difference in the world.



Dr. Yaser Najjar, Worcester Islamic Center

ESL

This month we take time to explore several December holidays. We will read about the origin of Hanukkah, Christmas and New Years and the traditions that continue today. There is so much vocabulary to learn, such as menorah, wreath, poinsettia, sleigh, dreidel and mistletoe! Wishing you all the best during this holiday season!