



7 Red Weekly Newsletter (5/13)

Curriculum Updates

ELA: Students have spent some time researching career paths that match their skills and interests. We spent this week conferencing on choices for the project and reviewing research skills. Things wrapped up today with students finalizing their sources and beginning to take notes. **If your student is feeling like they may want some additional support with research, note taking or the writing process I will be after school Wednesdays until 3:30.** There are so many interesting choices being made, we encourage you to ask your student what their project is all about!

Math: We began math class this week with the first lesson for our unit on expressions and equations. Students used tape diagrams (which were first introduced in Unit 4) to help them write and solve two step expressions and equations with variables. We gave a check-in to students today just to see how students did this week so please ask them on Monday how they did! Next week, our focus will be on hanger diagrams and how we can use them to help us balance equations.

Science: Scientists learned about ecological relationships including predation, competition, and symbiosis. Did you know that ants and acacia trees have a symbiotic relationship where the ants use the acacia trees as a habitat and attack any predators that try to feed on the tree? This is an example of mutualism. Next week, students will communicate their understanding of symbiosis through a project format. The remainder of the week will be spent learning about invasive species.

Social Studies: This week in World Geography we continued to work on and finish our culture projects. On Thursday and Friday, we began our discussions on colonialism and how Africa's current problems are linked to its history of European colonization. Next week, we will watch Fred Swaniker's Ted Talk: "The Leaders Who Ruined Africa, and The Generation Who Can Fix It" and learn about the life and legacy of Nelson Mandela and Apartheid in South Africa.

Skills: In Skills class this week, we worked on reviewing the distributive property and also solving 1- and 2- step equations. We also reviewed some material for those who will be participating in the Unit 5 retakes which will be coming up soon! Lastly, we talked about our digital footprint.

Important Dates:

May 30th - Memorial Day (No School)

June 9th - 7 Red Bowling Trip!

Link to Oak Middle School Weekly Notices:

<https://schools.shrewsburyma.gov/oak/communications>

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