

6-8 Science/Math

by Mrs. Odle

Steward School Council: November brought on our Annual Food Drive. We made the food drive a competition, again, between our upstairs kids and our downstairs kids to encourage all students to participate. During the first week, the downstairs kids were winning the competition by a narrow margin. During week two, the upstairs kids barely pulled ahead, but in week three, the upstairs kids really pushed to win the competitions. Their prize...an extra 10 minute recess!

Over all, the students of Steward School collected an amazing **275 items** to donate to two different charities: the NICE Center in Lee, IL and the Rochelle Christian Food Pantry. We are tremendously proud of the way the kids came together to help local needy families and people.

The student council will be delivering the items just before Thanksgiving and will tour each facility to see how they work.



Science: We have been learning about plate tectonics and how Earth's plates shift and move. The students have had several fascinating discussions comparing the forces at work and what they would look like in our lives. For example, we learned that a tsunami travels at a speed of about 800 kilometers per hour which is almost 500 mph - equivalent to the speed of a jet. In our **Ag In The Classroom** this month, we continued our study of corn. The 6th - 8th graders learned how farmers sell their crops and calculate their profits and debts based on the current markets.



6-8 Social Studies/ Language Arts

by Mrs. Stroh

Second quarter has kept everyone on their toes this year, however we had a great time in my classroom. We are still working hard to accomplish all of our goals this year.

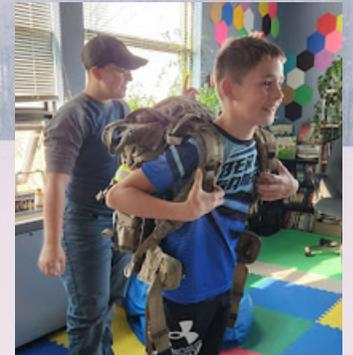


In **reading**, we have finished our poetry unit prior to Thanksgiving. And now we are working on our drama unit. Students have graced the classroom by choosing roles to read in “A Christmas Carol” and reading as the many characters in this play. Students have been working on comparing and contrasting character traits, how to read a drama (including stage directions), and the essential question of “Do others see ourselves more clearly than we see ourselves?”

In **Language Arts**, we finished writing a narrative writing essay in which students wrote about a significant event in their lives. We have continually worked on spelling, small groups for grammar in IXL, and editing paragraphs for punctuation, grammar, and common mistakes. We have also taken time to work with our new **social-emotional learning** curriculum. Students in 7th and 8th grade have worked hard on creating positive self-concept. As of late, we have really been focusing on how our families and friends affect those self-concepts. Also, students are learning about how first impressions, their image, and their identity influence our positive self-concepts.

In **Social Studies**, we have worked on our learning about our content areas. We were super blessed to have alum Maddison O’Rorke come during Veteran’s to discuss her time as a combat engineer in the Army Reserves. We loved hearing her stories on basic training and what she is doing now. **6th graders** have completed our unit on ancient Egypt, China, and India. We are currently learning about the Olmec, Maya, Aztecs, and other ancient Mesoamerican cultures. **7th graders** are currently working their way through the American Revolution. They created their own colonies, talked about what they would sacrifice to win their independence, and created their own flags to run up the Liberty Tree. **8th graders** have finished up both the Federal and Illinois Constitution: all students scored highly and were excited to pass. We are now in our textbooks working on reconstruction after the civil war.

Students got to reconstruct their own city block because it was ‘demolished by war’. We will be finishing out quarter two by talking about moving westward in the late 1800’s and early 1900’s. We will also learn about the rise of business with an emphasis on Andrew Carnegie and John D. Rockefeller.





Music class by Mr. Groth

2022 Holiday Concert

On December 13th, the students of Steward put on an amazing, music-packed concert. Each group performed multiple pieces of music that highlighted the skills that they are learning and practicing each day. From dancing to digital music, recorders to band instruments, the students showed it all! The seats were filled with parents, families, and community members who showed great support for music education. See you next concert!



New Year, New Instruments

The music program at Steward has been fortunate enough to receive funding from the Shirley Kersten Memorial Fund. With this funding, students have been able to experience music in new ways. Mr. Groth has already bought:

- a class set of recorders
- a class set of ukuleles
- a wooden bar xylophone
- several band instruments
- world percussion instruments

After winter break, watch and listen for what new instruments the students will be using!

Composer of the Month Projects

This year, students have been learning about lesser known composers. Each month, the bulletin board has highlighted one composer and the students have done related activities about the composer. In October, they learned about Danny Elfman, a film composer. They created stories and set music to different parts of the story. In November, students learned about Duke Ellington, a jazz composer. The 6th, 7th, and 8th graders then created presentations about other famous jazz composers, such as Miles Davis and John Coltrane. This month, students are learning about Florence Price, a once-forgotten orchestral composer.



Art class

by Mrs. Loeffelholz

Season's greetings, all! It may be chilly out, but the warmth of good friends & family are always here. What have your children been up to lately in art class?



in **Kindergarten**, our smallest friends are creating paper gnomes! They were hesitant about not using scissors to make the triangle hat; ask them what they did instead!

In **1st grade**, studying artist Charley Harper helped kids understand screen printing! With paper punched templates, students pushed white paint through onto blue paper for the illusion of snow!



In **2nd & 3rd grade**, books from author/illustrator Eric Carle demonstrated how to paint in a unique way. Kids purposely left brushstrokes visible in order to try his techniques with painted polar bears!



In **4th grade** is demonstrating form & texture with miniature terrariums! From the ground up, kids choose which elements best suit their clay organism's habitat.



5th grade explored Japanese marbling in two styles: marbles rolling through paint over paper & food coloring with shaving cream prints!

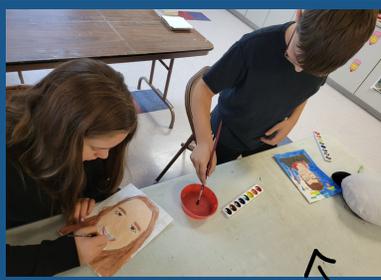


Happy holidays!

6th grade is completing artist Kimmy Cantrell's asymmetrical masks! Art term "relief" is shown with the cutting into & building up of mask parts.



7th grade displayed impressive patience with slow, careful control while adding color to their value self-portraits.



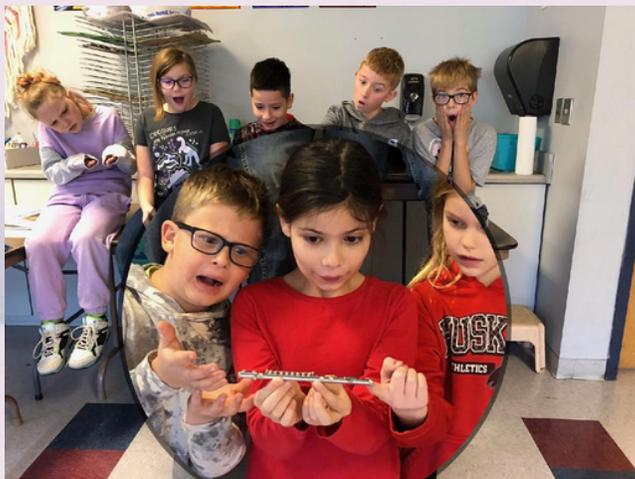
8th grade demonstrated negative space with watercolor initials. Splattering paint was encouraged! Happy holidays!



Let's Go Caroling



Mr. Groth took the 6th grade class around to each class to do some Christmas caroling during the last week of school . It was nice to hear their voices and see their smiles as they spread Holiday cheer.



One day Mr. Groth was sick and Mrs. Simpson subbed for him. As a joke she brought in a tiny flute and she took a picture of the kids holding it with a note underneath saying, "Oh no! We accidentally shrunk the instruments!".

It was very cute.

The cheerleaders had a very successful season coached by Mrs. Hayes and Mrs. Esposito. They received so many compliments from other schools on how well they performed together. My personal favorite was when they spelled Eagles with their pom-poms.



They helped cheer the boys Varsity on to a second place

finish in the Meridian Conference Tournament. The Varsity lost by 13 against the St. Paul Crusaders', who went undefeated this year. The boys team was coached by Mr. Romes and Mr. Hayes with Paul Swartz helping out.

Mark
Your
Calendar!

January 4th: Teacher's Institute (No School)

January 5th: First Day Back To School!

Check out our website
for information such as:

- *School calendar for sports and school events
- *Board minutes
- *Lunch calendar
- *Newsletters
- *Student Handbook
- *Pay lunch fees online (NEW)

www.stewardschool220.org

Second Quarter Report Cards

With so many kids being out sick at the end of the second quarter, report cards will be sent home the week of Jan. 9th.



Girl's basketball season

- January 17 at Creston
- January 19 at Eswood
- January 24 St. Paul here
- January 26 Cornerstone here
- January 31 at Kings
- February 2 Creston here
- February 7 Eswood here



Picture Retake Day

If you are not satisfied with the last school picture that was taken we are having a picture retake day on

**Wednesday
January 11th**



**SPELLING
BEE!**

Friday, January 20th 8:40am

We had over 20 students from 5th grade to 8th grade participate last year and we look for another great turnout this year. The Spelling Bee will start at 8:40am on Friday, February 20th. All parents and grandparents are welcome to attend.