



The Cluster Chronicles: October/November

-The Academy Edition

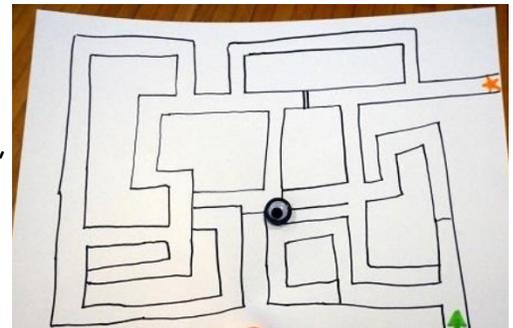
Science- 4th Grade

During the months of October and November, students will be introduced to the foundational concepts about systems and understand that the energy that many devices that we use every day requires electrical energy to function. As part of their learning about energy, students are introduced to the problem they will consider throughout the unit: the fictional city of Ergstown suffers from frequent blackouts and the mayor is seeking help in designing improvements to the electrical system. Students will be taking on the role of systems engineers who are learning about the electrical system, our nation's network for producing and delivering electricity from suppliers to consumers and will also be engaging in other forms of hands-on and interactive experiences that focus on their learning about energy concepts.

Students are also investigating the cause and effect relationships of electric or magnetic interactions between objects not in contact with each other. Ms. Kivelson and her classes are working in groups to design solutions to simple design problems that can be solved by applying scientific ideas about magnets.

Families are encouraged to join in on the learning with their students by playing vocabulary match games using the unit vocabulary words listed below, and choosing to engage in one or more of these *energizing* fun-family activities.

1. Create your own magnet maze and solve it by moving the magnet along the maze. You can even create roads and paper cars for to 'drive' along the road. Hold the magnet under the paper and place your magnetic object (your playing piece) on your maze. All you need is paper, scissors, pens/pencils/markers, objects that you think are magnetic, and a magnet!
2. **Energy Detectives!** Pretend you and your family/friends are home investigators working for an energy company. Your task is to help the company identify energy converters (electrical devices) in your home. Then use the Chapter 2 Home Investigation: Converters and Forms of Energy handout (from class and found on our school website!) to record your findings and list the output energy associated with each device. Remember to use your notes and vocabulary words from class.



system

function

magnetism

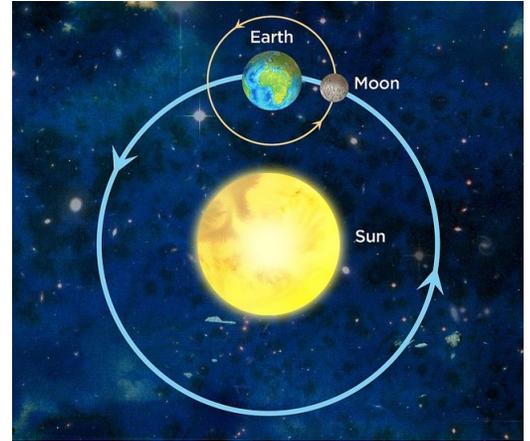
attraction

electrical system

magnetic force

Science- 5th Grade

During the month of October, students will be introduced to the foundational concepts about our planet and will learn about the relative size and location of stars, including the sun, in space. As part of their learning about the earth and sky, students are introduced to their role as astronomers who are helping a team of archaeologists at the fictional Museum of Archaeology. Their job is to help identify a newly discovered ancient artifact and provide assistance in filling in the missing pieces to prepare the artifact for display in the museum.



Students will also be engaging in other hands-on and interactive activities with Ms. Thapar that will help them better understand our solar system and the objects in it.

Families are encouraged to join in on the learning with their students by playing vocabulary match games using the unit vocabulary words listed below, and choosing to engage in one or more of these *out of this world* fun-family activities.

1. **A Tasty Solar System Model-** Create a scale model of the solar system using fun foods and snacks from your home! Be creative, take a picture (before you eat it!), and make a recipe guide for your friends and family to share :)
 - Fruit ideas: orange, kiwi, banana, strawberries, grapes, coconut flakes (for shooting stars), etc.
 - Candy ideas: M&Ms, Skittles, gummi fruit rings and worms, Lifesavers, Tic Tacs, etc.
2. **Mythology in the Sky!** Read about some of the most famous Greek mythology characters (ex: Hercules, Orion, Hermes, etc.) and watch the movie Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief (if you wish!) for more character ideas. Then grab a blanket and see if you can find their constellations in the night sky on a clear night. You can use the following websites and free apps to help you spot the constellations and learn more about your favorite ones (Star Chart app, SkyView Free app, Night Sky app, Discovery Kids Find Out! Website, Ducksters Astronomy for Kids Website)

astronomer

sun

data

model

visualize

investigation

stars

earth

constellation

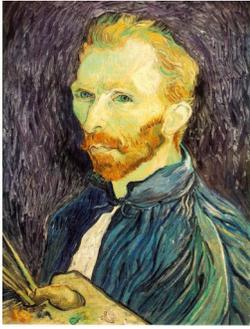
evidence

solar system

sphere



Art- 4th & 5th Grade



Students are learning how to create their self-portraits by understanding the basic placement of facial features and their proportions, whether they are creating a self-portrait or a portrait of someone else. Students have been shown examples of portraits and self-portraits by famous artists such as Vincent Van Gogh, Frida Kahlo, Amadeo Modigliani and others. Concepts learned about colors and shading were introduced by using the color wheel used during class to help students in determining hair color, eye color, and skin tone. Upon completion of their self-portraits, Ms. Izzo will guide students through a self-critique of their progress from their beginning sketches to their final pieces of art work. Students will learn to focus on the process of art and evaluate their growth as artists.

Families are encouraged to join in on the learning with their students by playing vocabulary match games using the unit vocabulary words listed below, and choosing to engage in one or more of these *artistic* fun-family activities.

1. **Artist for Hire!** Round up your closest family members and friends to do a portrait session on each member. Use the fall colors in your neighborhood for inspiration!
2. **Portrait Scavenger Hunt-** See if you can spot any portraits in your neighborhood. You can look at graffiti, street art, and local community museums, libraries, shops, restaurants, etc. Snap pictures of the portraits you find on your phone and create stories for each of the people for whom you do not know.



portrait
feature
shape

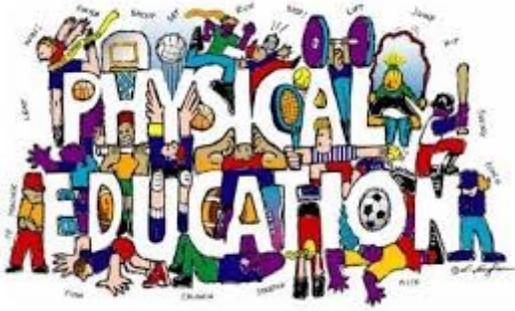
self-portrait
proportion
tone

Physical Education- 4th & 5th Grade

Mr. A. and his students are learning all about how to use their own body weight in fitness training. Students are focusing on learning and practicing the proper form for push-ups, curl-ups, and trunklifts (all performed with/out modifications). Classes engaged in discussions about what fitness means to them. A combination of all of the classes responses resulted in this definition: Fitness is about keeping your body strong, happy, and healthy and is important in maintaining a balanced life. The student learn how to listen to their own bodies and are encouraged to make positive changes towards a healthy lifestyle.

Families may join in on the learning about fitness in this unit with their children by engaging in the following *fit*-fun-family activities below!

- **Yes Coach!** Pretend you are a coach/personal trainer and practice helping each other come up with a quick and fun workout routine. You can take turns pretending to be coach and use the checklists that we use in class with Mr. A. to practice proper form and technique on the exercises practiced in class.



- **Fit Families and Friends Scavenger Hunt-** Enjoy the beautiful fall weather and go for a walk around your neighborhood and count as many people/families that are participating in some kind of physical activity (ex: walking, playing, biking, skating, running, etc.) as you can that you see outside on your walk.

fitness

push-up

BMI

curl-up

trunklift

modification

Performing Arts- 4th & 5th Grade

During the fall with Mr. Woodworth, students have been creating an ensemble in Drama class by playing Drama games such as *Toe to Toe*, *The Blind Walk*, and *Build a Machine*. The students learn to work together, build trust, and involve each member of the group in a collaborative performance/activity. The foundational performance arts technique that students have been exploring this unit is pantomime. Through Drama games like, *The Mirror Exercise*, *Bucket of Water*, and *Tug of War*.



The students are working together in groups to prepare for their pantomime performances of "The Rock", "The Pickle", and "The Boat." The 'actors' then critique and assess their fellow classmates' performances using their *Actor's Toolbox* checklists. The goal of pantomime is to make the audience believe something that isn't really there. The students learn how to make claims and inferences based on facial expressions, body movement, and actions. Students are also learning about creating formations on stage and the importance of space and movement in production.

Families may join in on the learning about performance art in this unit with their children by engaging in the following fun family activities below!

- **Character Critic-** Have a fun night in with your friends and family and watch 1 or 2 of your favorite movies, but this time- as a professional Hollywood movie critic. Grab some paper and a pen and take notes on the actors' facial expressions, body movements, and actions. Try to focus on only one character and use what you learned from class to create a character critique.
- **Charades-** A classic and simple way to practice acting out! Make your own game of charades by using index cards or paper to write down funny characters, people, places, things, and situations for your action cards. Then hand each player 5 cards and start acting! A funny way to make the game even more memorable is to record your friends and family members acting out the funniest action cards and show them later!

Drama Club

Drama Club is off to a strong start this year! The drama club staff, along with the expert guidance of Club Director Mr. Woodworth, is working on building a rapport with one another as they prepare for their annual musical production- *Willy Wonka Jr!* The actors all auditioned for their future character roles through playing drama games, singing exercises, and much more. The ensemble learns to be themselves and how to take good risks while building their trust, confidence, and self-esteem!



ensemble

pantomime

formation

critique

stage left/right

critic

Important Dates to Remember!



- ⇒ Thursday, 10/18/18 (7:50 am-9:40 am):
 - Family Thursdays at PS 7 Academy! Come and join in on your child's learning on the third Thursday of every month (next Family Thursday 11/15/18)
- ⇒ Tuesdays (2:10 pm-2:50 pm):
 - Parent Engagement Time
- ⇒ Tuesday, 10/30/18 (4:00 pm-6:30pm):
 - Fall Festival at the Academy!
- ⇒ Wednesday, 11/7/18:
 - November Spirit Day- Wacky Wednesday!!!!
- ⇒ Tuesday, 11/13/18:
 - Support our Veterans and troops by wearing camouflage colors (green, brown, black, blue, gray, tan)
 - Middle School Parent Wkshps. (8:30am-10:00am/1:45pm-3:00pm)
- ⇒ Thursday-Friday, 11/22/18-11/23/18:
 - Thanksgiving Holiday- NO SCHOOL
- ⇒ Friday, 11/30/18:
 - The Stationary Store hosted by the PTA will be selling items in the cafeteria during lunch periods 4-6 for students to purchase if they wish (*please do not send in more than \$20 for your child)