

Gayle Denny Houser

dennyg@pcsb.org

Barbara Gurian

gurianb@pcsb.org

This newsletter serves as a form of communication between the teachers and the parents. Below please find important information regarding curriculum, projects, and announcements.

Project Due Dates

Eurasia Projects

All grades are working on projects due on these dates:

5th Grade: Thursday, February 2nd

2nd Grade: Monday, February 6th

4th Grade: Wednesday, February 8th

3rd Grade: ♥ Tuesday, February 14th ♥

Mark your calendars for Landmark Showcase Night: April 25 – 26, 2017

Come and learn about exciting Landmarks around the World! Students will be presenting themselves, dressed in costume as a landmark that they have learned about.

Landmark

Showcase Night

Language Arts

Language Arts in the Advance Academics (Gifted) Classrooms:

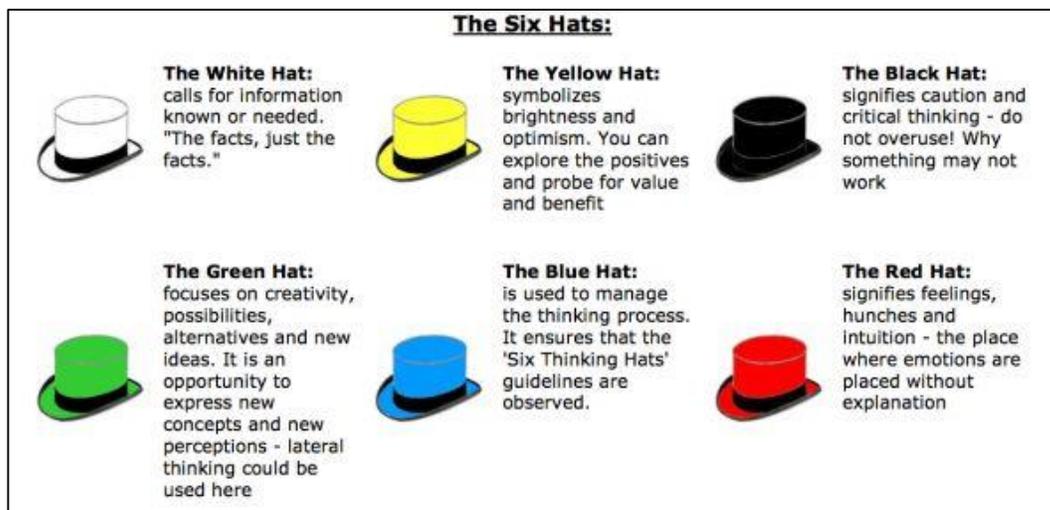
We are making our way around the world... in one hundred eighty days. We've left the Americas in the western hemisphere and are traveling over to Europe by way of the Gulf Stream. Talking about each child's own culture, diversity, and traditions is important for our students. We would encourage you to talk with your child about traditions that have been passed from one generation to another. Our next project will focus some on their own heritage or lineage, while we visit several European countries to learn about some of the customs we have here in America. We will be developing some basic map skills (compass rose, symbols, key, etc.).

The "homework" for this period will be for your child to create a display box (box will be supplied) in which they create a scene from the country that they are researching. This project will be due in February, see dates above. As always, we encourage and celebrate creativity.

Also, during these next two months we will be using technology to enhance and support our writing. We are blessed to be able to borrow the Art and Music department's Macbook Pros, so please thank them for us. The Macs operate differently than the normal school PCs, so most students will be learning new technology. Students will be researching and discussing various topics, using graphic organizers to record their facts and information, then creating a PowerPoint, Word document, or Sway project.

DeBono's Thinking Hats

One area we work on in Advance Academics is using a systematic method of thinking called Dr. Edward de Bono's Six Thinking Hats. The children learn effective problem solving and critical thinking techniques to help them effectively develop their skills.



Math

All grade levels work on a variety of leveled **logic problems**.

1st - 2nd grade – Patterns; both growing and repeating; various addition and subtraction strategies, and problem solving using the Act It Out & Draw a Picture strategies. Basic fractions will be introduced to 2nd graders.

3rd grade - continued practice with subtraction strategies when regrouping, fractions- comparing, ordering, on a number line, & equivalent fractions. Figure It Out problem solving booklet using the Use a Model & Make a List strategies.

4th grade - continued emphasis on multiplication & division facts, fractions – adding, subtracting, equivalent fractions, and problem solving using whole numbers and fractions. Figure It Out problem solving booklet using the Draw a picture & Make a List strategies.

5th grade – Fractions – adding, subtracting, equivalent, mixed numbers, simplifying, and word problems with fractions. Figure It Out problem solving booklet using the Draw a picture & Make a List strategies.

“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.”

-Aesop

Philanthropy Service Project

In January, students will be collecting donations of gently used blankets to give to Pinellas Hope, a local agency that helps families in need. We are encouraging our Curtis families to check their linen closets to see if they might find clean blankets that might still have a lot of life left in them. Students have set a goal of collecting 300 blankets! Signs will be posted around the school after break as well as other announcements about this service project.

I’m Not Just Gifted ...the Social and Emotional side by Christine Fonseca

Learning about Social-awareness, self-awareness, relationship skills, and self-management

2nd grade & 3rd grade – Don’t Forget About Emotional Intelligence

- Self awareness, Managing Emotions, Conflict Resolution
- Strength, fears, understanding emotions, triggers, problem solving

4th & 5th grade – Daily Habits for Successful Living

- The Person in the Mirror, I Think I Can, I’m Proud Of, Failure Isn’t the End, Responsible or Not,
- The Art of Making Decisions, Relaxing, This is Stressing Me Out, All About Balance

Homework Help - -

Thursday afternoons until 3 pm. The Cottages will be open to a type of Study Hall. Students can bring their homework and work on it, while asking questions and getting support from Mrs. Gurian and Mrs. Denny.