



Science ~ Mrs. Melega

During the first marking period, the Lightning Team began their year in science by really taking a close look at the way science works. We learned about the types of evidence that are considered truly scientific, and the way new scientific ideas are introduced to the scientific community. We saw that our senses and our memory of events are not as reliable as we'd like to think. This is why scientific discoveries are reviewed and retested over and over by the scientific community before they are accepted.

By late September, we were ready to begin our study of energy. We learned that energy comes in two different states: potential and kinetic. This is similar to the idea that matter can change from solid to liquid to gas and back again. The forms of potential energy we studied are: mechanical potential energy, gravitational potential energy, chemical, static electricity and nuclear. The forms of kinetic energy we studied are mechanical, sound, heat, electricity (current) and electromagnetic radiation.

We're currently wrapping up our study of electromagnetic radiation. We will finish up energy the first weeks of the second marking period, and then begin Astronomy.

Physical Education ~ Mr. Denman

The first quarter physical education program for the Lightning students included the following: The weekly "Fun Run" - a student favorite which helps the students prepare for the cardiovascular portion of fitness testing at the end of the quarter, a dance unit, a biking unit, weight training and the pre-test for the Fitness 500.

Social Studies ~ Mrs. Lapsley

The first marking period has ended our studies on the historical aspect of the Holocaust and our nation's capital, Washington, D.C. Students will be reviewing colonization and beginning a unit on the Revolutionary War and will continue the second marking period with lessons on the founding of our government, the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Students will be brought to the media center one day this marking period to pick out a book of their choice with a historical background that they are interested in reading. Research shows that continuous reading for 20 minutes a day increases reading comprehension!!!

English ~ Mrs. Cosentino

Students on the Lightning Team recently learned about the Holocaust. They read the book Night in English class. The students discussed and wrote about how to incorporate the lessons of the Holocaust into their everyday lives. The culmination of their Holocaust studies was a presentation by a guest speaker and a visit to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC. Students will begin writing more creatively during the second quarter. They will also learn and implement many new grammar rules.

Math ~ Mr. Keil

In Algebra we will start the second marking period solving advanced word problems then move to graphing linear equations. This will take most of the marking period as we move through the concepts of slope, graphing, and solving linear equations. The Pre-Algebra classes will start the marking period with numerical relations including variables. We will move through percents and proportions, cover mean, median and mode, and finish with probability.