



5<sup>th</sup> Avenue 4/5 Academy

LINKS NEWSLETTER

Mrs. Holden

November 2, 2015

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## TERM 2 OVERVIEW 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

Our focus during Term 2 was the Central Idea, "Who we are, where we live and what we have experienced influence our viewpoint." We began by reading narratives of former slaves and taking notes on how their viewpoints were influenced by their experiences. We also read about Frederick Douglass and Nat Turner and compared their experiences. Students chose one of the individuals that they read about and took notes on and created an I AM poem from the perspective of that person. The poems were pretty impactful and I was impressed by the level of student understanding. These poems have already been sent home, so I hope that your child shared his/her poem with you.

In the next portion of the class, we took a look at plant and animal cells and compared/contrasted their structures. In addition, some of the classes extracted DNA from peas (the classes that did not do this activity, did it in their regular class). We then had the opportunity to look at the process of mitosis and created models using Oreos and sprinkles. Each of these Science activities helped to reinforce and build on how Who We Are is influenced by inherited features (which was the grade level standard).

Finally, this term, we worked on building fluency by using Readers Theater plays about the Civil War. Readers Theater is meant to focus on the oral presentation vs a complete staging of a play (props/costumes, etc.). For that reason, we don't usually put on a "performance". You may recall that last year we went through a similar activity with "The Trojan Women".

I also want to let you know, if you had not already heard, that I will be transitioning from a Links teacher to FAVE's IB Coordinator/Instructional Coach. Ms. Newton and Mr. Thomas have hired Dr. Karla Zisook to replace me and the plan is to have her replacement in place by Thanksgiving. That means that I will continue to work with your children up until Thanksgiving. Dr. Zisook spent many years as a teacher of the gifted in Atlanta Public Schools before coming to FAVE. I know that your children's experiences with her will be engaging and rigorous and that she will be able to make sure that each of your children grow in their learning.