



**5<sup>th</sup> Avenue 4/5 Academy**  
**LINKS NEWSLETTER**  
**Mrs. Holden, Ms. Theisen & Mr. Withers**  
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## **WHAT DID WE DO IN TERM 1?**

### **READING**

- Students identified and created text features in a higher level informational text.
- Students practiced having good conversations using a higher level narrative text

### **MATH**

- Students practiced solving a multi-step word problem (involving multiplication/division) & then explained the strategies that they used to solve the problem.
- Students practiced with combining digits and using order of operations to solve a problem. (4<sup>th</sup> grade)
- Students used exponents with bases other than 10. (5<sup>th</sup> grade)
- Students wrote multi-step word problems. (4<sup>th</sup> grade)
- Students compared decimals to the thousandths place. (5<sup>th</sup> grade)

### **RESOURCE**

- Students learned about the IB Attitudes and how they relate to the learner profile attributes.
- Students researched the IB Transdisciplinary Skills and worked on either writing goal statements or creating images of the skills. These are the skills that we will use to assess the students, so we believe it is essential that they have a solid knowledge of what those skills are.
- Students used the information that they read about biomes to help them create a biome for their class (in a terrarium) and then make a food web to match that biome or to match the animal that they researched for their summative assessment. This lesson was tied to the Central Idea, “Living things are interconnected with the environment for survival.” (4<sup>th</sup> grade)
- Students used the information that they read about cladism and taxonomy to create rankings for animals of their choice. Students learned that as technology and discoveries change, scientists also change how organisms are classified. We highlighted this idea with the addition of domain to the taxonomic rankings. This activity was tied to the Central Idea, “Processes and procedures develop structures that create order in our world.” (5<sup>th</sup> grade)

Last week, students wrote reflections on the work they did during Term 1. Those reflections, plus the one they will complete for term 2, will be sent home with 12 week progress reports. Our focus is on developing the Transdisciplinary Skills, especially the communication skills, social skills and self-management skills. We have spent quite a bit of time working with students to help them get organized with a notebook and to keep up with the work we do during Links time (either with the Links teacher or with their gifted endorsed classroom teacher). If you have questions or concerns about your child’s progress or work in Links, please feel free to contact one of us or contact your child’s classroom teacher (if the teacher is gifted endorsed).

## **WHAT CAN YOU DO TO SUPPORT TERM 2'S UNITS OF INQUIRY?**

**4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE: HOW THE WORLD WORKS** & its Central Idea: Exploration leads to discovery and develops new understandings.

- Visit the Carlos museum <http://www.carlos.emory.edu/exhibitions/current-exhibitions> and view the exhibits on different cultures. There is a great visiting exhibit, Grandfather Sun, Grandmother Moon: Wixárika Arts of Modern West Mexico.
- Visit the Etowah Indian Mounds near Cartersville <http://gastateparks.org/EtowahMounds> . This is an excellent way to understand how exploration impacted this region.
- Visit the Fernbank planetarium. <http://www.fernbank.edu/planetarium.htm>

**5<sup>th</sup> GRADE: WHO WE ARE** & its Central Idea: Who we are, where we live and what we have experienced influences our viewpoints.

Students will be visiting the Atlanta History Center in October and will get a chance to see one of the best collections of Civil War artifacts in the Country.

Other great local trips include

- Cyclorama, although it will soon be moving to the History Center (<http://www.atlanta.net/things-to-do/history/cyclorama-civil-war-museum/>)
- Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield (<http://www.nps.gov/kemo/index.htm> ). The trail that takes you past the Illinois monument is particularly significant. <http://www.nps.gov/stateoftheparks/kemo/culturalresources/cheathamhill.cfm>
- Visit The Southern Museum in Kennesaw <http://www.southernmuseum.org/> , home to the famous General locomotive.
- Right in Decatur, take a walk through the Decatur Cemetery, tours available on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month. <http://www.decaturga.com/index.aspx?page=291> , or visit Dekalb Historical Society in the old Courthouse. <http://www.dekalbhistory.org/>
- Find out more about microorganisms and disease at the CDC museum. <http://www.cdc.gov/museum/>

