



5th Avenue 4/5 Academy
LINKS NEWSLETTER
Mrs. Holden
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TERM 1 OVERVIEW 5TH GRADE

Our focus this term was the Central Idea, "Processes and procedures are created to develop order in our world." We started out this year's Genius Hour by looking more closely at the process for developing good questions. Students practiced this with pictures of different and unusual animals. Next students expanded what they learned about plant and animal classification to create a "creature" and a corresponding taxonomy. I was impressed that students could explain why they had to develop new rankings using language we had gone over in class. Right now the creatures are displayed in the Falcon's Nest so they won't be sent home for a couple of more weeks.

For our final meetings, we examined the Mayan number system and how it compares of our system.

This next term we will be exploring the theme "Who We Are". The study will include a look at the perspectives of slaves during the Civil War and another investigation in Science (with either cells or genetics).

NOTE: We will be reading narratives from individuals who were former slaves. Their stories were recorded and transcribed in the 1930's. Some of the narratives contain language that in today's setting would be considered racist. These stories are a key part of understanding the perspective of those who were held in slavery. I will be discussing the use of the language with students, but if you would prefer that your child not read a narrative that contains this type of language, please let me know. Below is a link to the site, if you would like to look over the entries.

<http://xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/wpa/reading.html>