

Shapleigh Shark News

How the Brain Learns

The 8th graders started their year by participating in activities designed to help them understand how their brains are developing at this stage in their lives and to also understand that each of them have unique talents and skills. During one of the activities students watched a video called “Backwards Bicycle” and learned about neuroplasticity, the idea that brains can be trained to learn things that may at first seem impossible. We then discussed the “Marble” analogy to foster self-reflection about what is important for each student in their lives to prioritize their focus and energy. They also participated in several team building activities that were both fun and challenging, such as “human knot”, “circle sit”, and a group reflection session to name a few. All in all, the first week of school focused on the whole student and self-reflection, and hopefully prepared each and every student to have an engaging and successful year in the eighth grade!



Music Notes

Band and Chorus have started up again at Shapleigh School! 5th graders have picked up their new instruments and are beginning their weekly lessons, while 6-8th graders are jumping into rehearsals. Chorus, too, is off to an exciting start, as 6th, 7th, and 8th graders, both new and old, join together to learn how to read music and how to best use their changing voices to create a great musical performance. The first concert of the year will be

the Winter Concert on Thursday, December 14th. 5th and 6th grade will perform at 5:30, 7th and 8th grade at 6:45. Stay tuned by checking out Mr. Roth's and Ms. Segedy's webpage!

iPads and Learning

Fourth and fifth grade students recently received new iPads to use at school. Some fifth graders got the chance to try out some super cool features on their devices. Since the students are learning about

longitude and latitude, they were able to use Google Earth to find different cities' coordinates. Then they used the coordinates to create a scavenger hunt for a partner. Students and teachers are all looking forward to more exciting uses for technology in our classrooms.



MAINE HARVEST WEEK AT SHAPLEIGH SCHOOL

Last week the Nutrition program celebrated Maine Harvest Week. Weathervane Seafood discussed harvesting lobsters in the State of Maine and the importance to our economy. Students loved being able to see a lobster up close and personal! During Maine Harvest Week students also had the treat of enjoying omelettes made by Chef David, Mrs. Ellis, Mrs. Beach, and Mr. Waddell! It was certainly a fun and nutritious week!



Learning Dignity, Pride, and Respect

The Cromwell Center for Disability Awareness visited the 4th, 5th, & 6th grade students this past week. 6th grade students spent their time with the Cromwell Center presenter doing activities and participating in discussions on disabilities and the importance of treating everyone with kindness, respect and celebrating our differences. Students also explored the difference between saying "just kidding" and their actions being considered bullying behavior. Following the Cromwell Center's visit each classroom was given the book, The Running Dream, which classes will have available for students to check out and read!



Writing in Nature

Writers in Ms. Sheldon's class are getting back in the swing of things by doing some outdoor writing. In preparation for a unit on personal narratives, the students are practicing adding sensory details to their writing. Luckily, the Shapleigh School playground offers plenty of interesting sights and sounds to add inspiration. Once the students have had time to "zoom in and out" on their environment, they get a chance to give each other feedback in small groups.



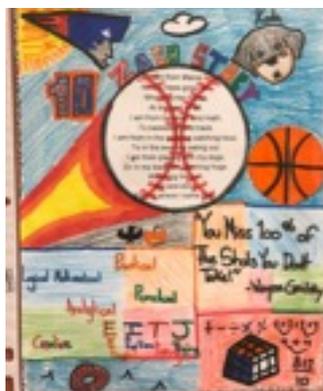
Songs of Friendship

Mrs. Perry's 4th Grade Class jumps into music by playing a game while they sing *Welcome All My Friends* and explore different musical elements, such as pitch differentiation and keeping a steady beat. Check out Ms. Segedy's webpage to see what else they've been up to!



Finding Your Spark Through Multiple Intelligences

Students in seventh grade investigated learner profile data such as Howard Gardner's *Theory of Multiple Intelligence*, Robert Sternberg's *Triarchaic Theory of Intelligence*, the Myers Briggs *Personality Type Indicator*, the concept of giftedness or "spark", and the growth mindset to create a visual of themselves as learners and display them on their lockers. The centerpiece was an "I am from" poem based on a classroom model, with other self-selected details around the writing. All of them were wonderful and are on display all year in the seventh grade hallway.



A Walking Tour of Maine

The fourth graders investigated a large map of Maine with their feet! They learned that maps have many important features. Students also investigated the geography of Maine and discovered that Maine has a rocky coastline. Students also learned how to use a map grid and worked on finding the latitude and longitude of towns and cities of Maine.



Proficiency-Based Learning Update

Did you know that you can access your child's grades via our online grading portal, *JumpRope*? The portal will be opening next week! Be on the look out for login information being sent home.

Important Dates

- 9/29: Grades 6-8 Dance
- 10/4: Early Release Day
- 10/6: Teacher Workshop
- 10/9: Columbus Day
- 10/20: Mid-Term Progress Reports