

Collaboration across grades –

Mrs. Short's 3rd grade students and Mrs. Dickson's 7th grade Foods class have formed a baking partnership for a Thanksgiving project. Every year third grade students make candy turkeys, using a variety of candy and double stuff oreos in order to have fun practicing their direction reading and math skills. This year an added component has been introduced with the 7th grade students helping the younger students make their own oreo cookies. Measuring, combining, stirring, cutting, filling, baking, and assembling will create over 60 candy turkeys destined to be "eaten on the spot", taken home, or given away.

Speaking Skills Used to Assess Learning -

Mrs. Edwards recently assessed the 5th grade students on their understanding of the Boston Massacre as part of their study of the American Revolution. After learning about it through reading, watching a video reenactment, and discussing it, each student chose a perspective of either a British soldier, an angry colonist, or a British citizen of Boston in order to tell what happened that night in 1770. Other than some facts listed on the board as visual prompts, the task required students to organize their thinking and share their knowledge orally. To accommodate students who found it difficult to stand in front of the class by themselves, they were given a choice; to share with one classmate while in front of the class or present to the whole class.

Writing Lyrics in Science Class -

What a Challenge!!! Mrs. Smith's sixth grade students have started their study of the circulatory system and recently completed their first assessment. Each student was tasked with writing and performing a song for the class using the melody of "*The Wheels on the Bus*" to demonstrate their understanding of the parts and purposes of the heart, blood, and blood vessels as well as the four types of blood. Although they opted out of performing their ballads in public, the performances can be viewed on Canaan Schools Facebook page.

Journalism -

This month the 6th and 8th grade students published newspapers.

After reading the novel, *Johnny Tremain*, Mrs. Lima's eighth grade students worked in small groups to replicate a front page of a newspaper of the time just prior to and during the outbreak of the American Revolution. Each student was required to write two news stories relevant to the times and contribute either a handbill, placard, pamphlet, cartoon, broadside, advertisement, or banner to the publication. Each group was responsible for naming their paper and deciding the font size and style, placement of stories, set up of the page, and appropriate artwork. This assignment counted as a test grade and assessed both the students' literacy skills and their understanding of how propaganda was used to sway support to either the Patriots or the Loyalists. This hands-on project is a forerunner of their next writing assignment of persuasive

essays. The newspapers (tea washed to make them look authentic) are on display on the bulletin board outside Mrs. Lima's classroom.

Mrs. Smith's sixth grade students have completed their newspaper for the first quarter. While practicing the skills of writing, revising, and editing as well as learning appropriate social skills for interviewing and the mechanics of setting up a newspaper, students focused on news of the Canaan Schools' elementary community. Watch your mailboxes for a copy of the first edition of the 2015-2016 Yellow Jacket Journal. Three more editions will be published this year, one at the end of each quarter.

Transferable skills -

High school students are familiar with the concept of voting - after all, for years they have heard about governmental elections, Academy Award voting, and the ranking of the sports teams. They may have also participated in club and school elections. Yet if you ask them about voting methods, most can describe only one method: plurality. Most students have never questioned the fairness of plurality, and have never considered alternative voting methods.

Seniors in Ms. Aldrich's Pre-calculus class recently voted on the design of their class sweatshirts and conducted several activities to explore alternative voting methods. In investigating the Hare voting system, the Borda Count method, and sequential pair-wise voting, they discovered what advantages and disadvantages each method offers and also saw that each method fails, in some way, to satisfy some desirable properties.

Many students were particularly surprised to discover that when the plurality method is used for political elections, the winner can be the candidate who the majority of voters like the least. In addition, it became apparent how elections can be manipulated and how simple changes to their preference lists can result in a more favorable outcome.

Thanksgiving

