

LEAP NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2018, ISSUE 3, VOLUME 15

LEAPING INTO SUMMER

As I reflect on the school year I am always amazed at how fast things go and each time I think that I always wish I had more time. More time to spend with the children in the classroom, more time to work on our projects and explore other things. Although the time goes by so fast, I am lucky that I am able to spend 3 years with these dynamic kids. The work they put into their projects is remarkable and even up to the end of the school year the motivation is still very high, which is why I feel incredibly thankful (and lucky).

To my 6th graders going off to middle school; I wish you the best of the luck and I know you ALL will do great things. Each of you

has something special to offer the world, don't ever forget that.

To my 4th and 5th grade students; enjoy the summer, don't forget to read, and maybe throw in a few science experiments to share with the groups in the fall. If you visit any bridges make sure to take pictures and send them along!



Never give up on what you really want to do. The person with big dreams is more powerful than one with all the facts.

Albert Einstein

thank you for another great year! I look forward to having everyone back in August! Enjoy every minute of your summer vacation!

Please refer to the list at the end of this newsletter for some fun summer enrichment opportunities.

In closing,



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are you in the know?

To get up-to-date information and photos regarding LEAP and other news regarding gifted educations by following me on Twitter!

MonicaHarned@LEAPin

Orange

Here's how!

1. If you do not already have the Twitter app installed on your smartphone, tablet or computer, you will need to install it.
2. Set up an account or sign in
3. Find me at:
@LEAPinOrange
4. Be sure you select
Monica Harned
5. Click FOLLOW
6. I will then confirm your account.

TALENT POOL UNIT OVERVIEWS

Grade 4 at Peck Place School, Race Brook School and Turkey Hill School

The students wrapped up their video game design units using the Scratch program and I could not be more impressed with their skill and determination. Going into this project the students and I really didn't know much about programming and what it would take to design a video game. What we all learned is that it takes A LOT of time and patience to even design just one level. The students had the stick-to-itiveness attitude and designed some interesting and challenging games.

The groups are currently sharing all of their games with one another and giving constructive feedback for each game. Along with this, they are completing a guide for the upcoming 4th graders on how-to create a video game on Scratch.

Skills that were addressed in this unit are as follows:

- ✓ **Creating a prototype**
- ✓ **Experimenting with different scripts**
- ✓ **Collaborating with peers**

Grade 5 at Peck Place School, Race Brook School and Turkey Hill School

Since the addition of 17 new fifth grade members district-wide, the students have been busy catching up and researching 5 main types of bridges. Once this was completed, the students have moved onto the virtual bridge building program, West Point Bridge Designer. Here, the students were given certain criteria to build a bridge like cost, tension and compression forces, and symmetry. I think the students really enjoyed being able to improve a bridge's flaws and testing it virtually. After scoring the students' bridges, it was unanimous that each thought that keeping the bridge within the allotted budget was the most challenging aspect.

With the end of the year fast approaching, Race Brook students will finish up West Point Bridge Designer and begin virtually surveying the location of the final bridge project which will take place when we return in the next school year. Turkey Hill and Peck Place students will begin the school year with West Point Bridge Designer.

This challenging West Point Bridge Designer program has introduced students to the engineering design process.

- S1: Build and test model bridges designed to carry a live load**
- S2: Investigate how compression and tension affect bridges strength**
- S3: Determine and remain within a set budget**



Grade 6 at Peck Place School and Race Brook School

The sixth graders wrapped up the final bridge unit, FINALLY! We discussed how unforeseen circumstances (snow days, field trips, assemblies, etc) effect the timeline of bridge construction. In the final weeks of school, the students will be presenting their projects to the sixth grade classes and of course we will be testing them using a 7lb. brick.

Skills addressed in this unit of study:

- ✓ **Develop a persuasive letter using specific characteristics of persuasion**
- ✓ **Distinguish and analyze the attributes of bridges**
- ✓ **Determine how forces act on structures**
- ✓ **Determine scale of structures**
- ✓ **Work cooperatively in small groups**
- ✓ **Assess bridge designs**
- ✓ **Modify bridge designs**

SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

<http://www.ctgifted.org/website/cmsAdmin/uploads/Summer-Programs-spread%202018.pdf>