

Date: 3-1-11

To: Nate Palkewick / Bonnie Dice

From: Carol Ann Lutz

Re: Lion's Roar Article

Middle School Science

Middle school students stay busy with many science activities.



Image: Grade 6 Chicken Wing Dissection

Grade 6 students (Life Science) are studying body systems. Glance into our upstairs classroom, and you will see several paper plate skeletons hanging around, along with a model lung and stomach. Our CMT task is "Feel the Beat," an investigation about pulse rate.

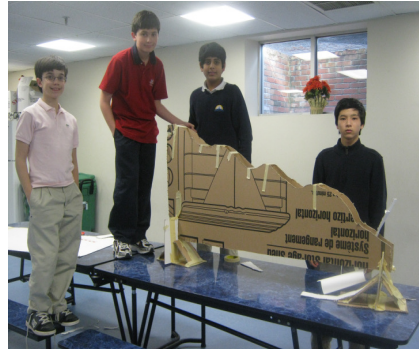


Image: Grade 7 Roller Coaster Challenge

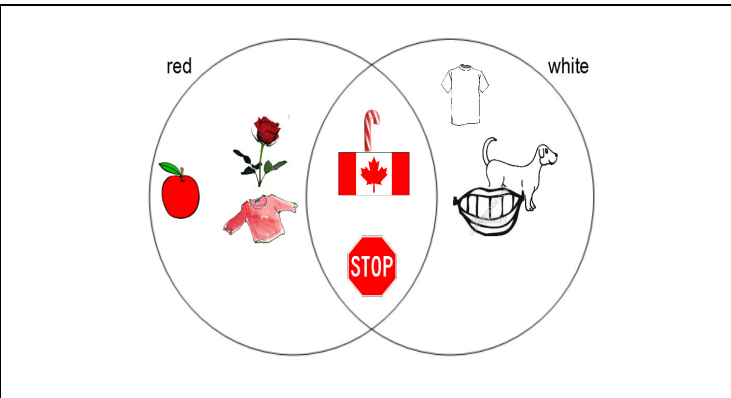
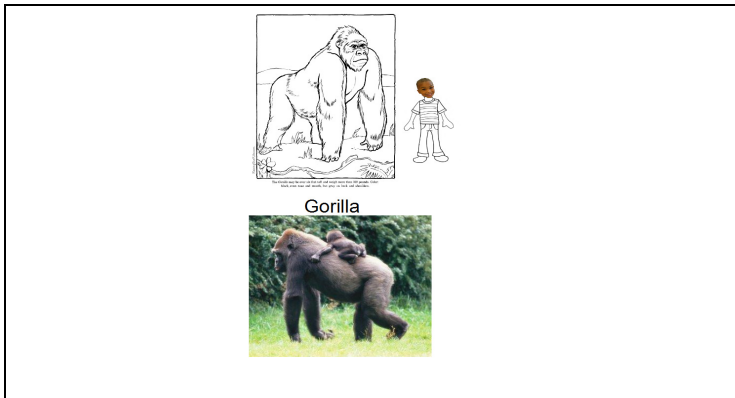
Grade 7 students (Physical Science) are studying forces and motion. Why do objects move or stop moving? What causes objects to move faster or slower? Why do some objects spin in circles? Many of our lessons go back to discoveries made by Isaac Newton. We are also learning about the close connection between math and science. Our CMT task is "Shipping and Sliding," an investigation about friction aboard an imaginary freighter.



Image: Grade 8 "Dig In"

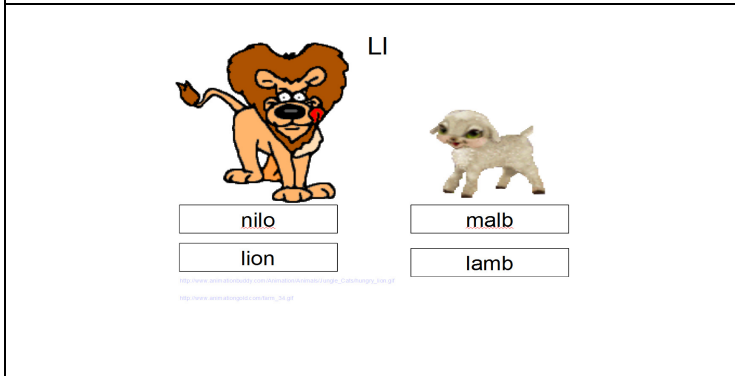
Grade 8 students (Earth Science) are studying the movement of water. How does water move, and what does it carry with it? Our CMT (Connecticut Master Test) task was "Dig In," an investigation about soil absorption and percolation. This week we will be doing a chemical analysis of several local water samples. Can water be clear and still not safe to drink? Some of our water topics are not too "pleasant" (what is sludge, anyway?), but we are considering water in many different ways in order to understand why water is crucial to life on Earth, and how humans play a part in preserving this precious resource.

Discovery Computers



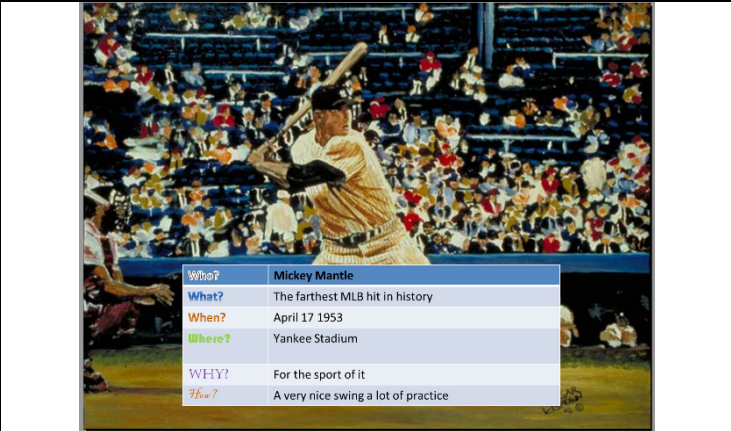
Pre-K students are building an animal ABC book. We are visiting Starfall.com online and watching video clips showing how animals move. We are also noticing how big people are compared with different animals.

Kindergarten students celebrated 100 days by typing in a chart of numbers. Now we are using computers to sort objects and colors into Venn Diagrams.



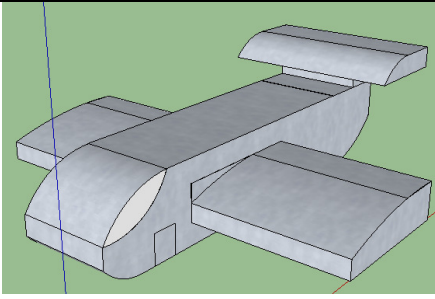
Grade 1 students are making an A-Z primer by sorting word scrambles. After that we will be building pattern block puzzles using slide show software.

Grade 2 students have just started a “Flat Friends” projects based on Flat Stanley. We plan virtual trips to several capitol cities on different continents.

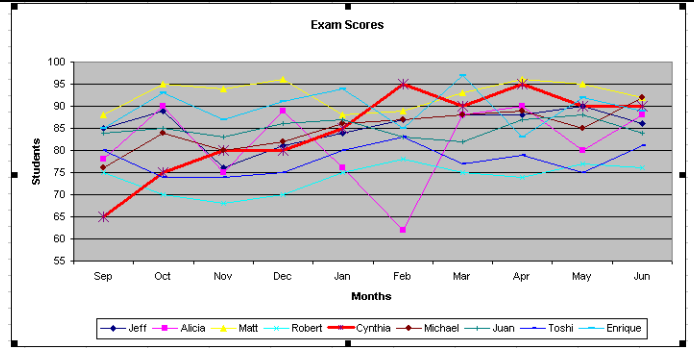


Grade 3-4 students are finishing their first slide show project on working dogs. This project incorporates many computer skills, and it also coordinates with a class reading of the novel Shiloh.

Grade 5-6 students recently worked on graphic organizers showing world records. Now we are practicing word processing skills by transcribing biographies of a scientist (Gregor Mendel), an entertainer (the Will Smith family), and a politician (Sarah Palin).



Grade 7 students are using a new program, Google Sketch Up, which is a 3-D drawing program. We are drafting chairs, letter blocks, and other things (image above is a plane by Taylor).



Grade 8 students are using Google Sketch Up and also refining their spreadsheet skills with a series of self-paced lessons.