



Hillsboro Intermediate School
Board Report October 19-20

We believe:

- **supportive relationships strengthen positive educational and life experiences.**
 - **high expectations compel students to strive for excellence.**
- **an accepting and encouraging school environment inspires intellectual risk taking.**
- **authentic and engaging experiences foster opportunities for high levels of learning and growth.**
- **clear and open communication creates a pathway for school and community collaboration.**

October Board Report

We are well on our way to a great second six weeks. Students have completed NWEA and CBA testing. Teachers are evaluating student needs and adjusting classroom instruction to meet those needs. We had a great turnout for our Parent Conference day and have gotten great feedback from parents. We continue to focus on our Choose Love initiative. One of our favorite things to do on campus is to write back to our traveling journal partners. HIS has partnered with HHS to ensure our students have someone to write to each week. We are excited for the growth we are seeing in students, and the relationships we are making with them.



Phenomenal Fifth Graders

In Social Studies students have been reviewing landforms, regions, and directions in preparation for our first social studies CBA. Classes have also been discussing the meaning of our national anthem and continuing the unit on the first Americans settling in North America. The students found it interesting to find out that the first form of government was established over 15,000 years ago as well as the first language and writing system. Fifth graders have been busy learning about various explorers coming to this new world. They discovered the reasons why Christopher Columbus set sail on his voyage to find new land as well as how map makers came to create the maps we use today. Students also learned about the accomplishments of explorers Bartolomeu Dias, Vasco da Gama, and Juan Ponce de Leon. The students discovered that St. Augustine in Florida was the first settlement founded by Spanish settlers in 1565 which was then New Spain.

In ELAR, students tried their best on their NWEA Reading and Language tests, striving for their goals. Students also used the writing process to create a blog entry over an imaginative story of getting to witness an experiment of Captain Arsenio, the protagonist from our fantasy story. In addition, they drew an Instagram or Snapchat illustration to go along with what they “saw”. Students took their first CBA and reviewed their results. Students continued to work towards their AR goals for the second six weeks, and the students who reached their AR goals from the first six weeks enjoyed their AR party with snow-cones and extra recess.

In science students explored the physical properties of mixtures and solutions. We separated mixtures to show physical properties didn't change. We explored the property of light scattering in a mixture but not in a solution. We rotated through stations to explore, read about, explain, analyze, and practice vocabulary for mixtures and solutions. Fifth graders also reviewed the physical properties of matter, mixtures, and solutions using the game Kahoot!. We took our first CBA and corrected anything we missed.

In math, students worked hard on their CBA's. Before the test, each student set a goal for themselves and they worked hard to reach it. The following days were spent reviewing data based on the CBA, and then celebrating all the students hard work and job well done. Math classes are all about fractions; dividing in a lab in which students will have to use recipes, fractions, and divisions in order to enjoy the food.

Fabulous Fourth Graders

Students will learn to solve with fluency multi-step problems involving all operations including interpreting remainders, and at the end of the month students will participate in a Hospital transformation to “operate” problems that involve all operations.

Students will investigate energy. Students will analyze force and motion. The student knows that energy exists in many forms and can be observed in cycles, patterns, and systems. The student is expected to: differentiate among forms of energy, including mechanical, sound, electrical, light, and thermal. The student will be able to differentiate between conductors and insulators of thermal and electrical energy by demonstrating that electricity travels in a closed

path by making a circuit in the lab. The student will investigate and explore the effect of force on an object such as a push or a pull, gravity, friction, or magnetism.

This month, 4th grade ELAR will be working through Module 2--Come to Your Senses! We will be learning about the 5 senses and addressing the essential question, How do people and animals use their senses to navigate the world? We will read stories about people who are living without the use of one or more of their senses and experiencing, through our reading, how these heroes have been able to overcome their challenges. We will be learning about how we write and communicate using sensory language to create images in the minds of our audience. We will learn how advertisements appeal to the senses in order to persuade the target audience to purchase or buy into their product or idea, and we will practice conceptualizing a product that will help others and creating an advertisement for that product, using sensory language. We will continue to grow our vocabulary, and to discuss and practice plot, character analysis, summary/retell, author's purpose, point of view, central idea, and theme. We will explore various genres and be able to compare and differentiate among them.

Students will learn about the Great Plains, North Central Plains, and Gulf Coastal Plains regions of Texas. This includes animals, vegetation, resources, and landforms in each area. Students will also begin a study of the early native people within each region. The student will understand how these people came to be in this part of Texas as well as similarities and differences between the various tribes. Students will also be able to identify the names of tribes still present in Texas and the regions they are living in.

Terrific Third Graders

Third grade has been busy getting back into the swing of things. We have just concluded our first round of Curriculum Based Assessments. Third grade is the first year the students are tested and will take the STAAR test. The CBA's help implement those testing strategies to prepare them for the rigor of STAAR. We are looking forward to studying our data and growing from here.

In ELAR, students are focusing on nonfiction texts within the "Let Freedom Ring" unit to learn how historic places, documents, and symbols represent our nation. They are also learning about dramas and literary elements through fables and videos. Students will work through the writing process to compose informational texts and stories.

In Math, we are wrapping up addition and subtraction. The next few weeks we are introducing multiplication and division. Once the students have learned all operations we will be able to start really focusing on deciphering our word problems. Not only is this a weakness in third grade, the students will also have to do multi-step problems with all operations. This is a crucial time for us to hone in on how to completely break the problem down and solve accordingly. This month we also introduce graphing, tables and fractions. Again, these are highly tested on STAAR. We teach these concepts at the beginning of the year so we can continuously spiral all year long.

In science, students are investigating forms of energy in everyday life. These include mechanical, sound, light, thermal, potential, and kinetic energy. Students are also investigating

force and motion. The kids will learn and observe how position and motion can be changed by pushing and pulling objects. They will also observe forces such as magnetism and gravity acting on various objects.

In social studies, students are learning about the community as a place. Students are going to understand how humans adapt to variations in the physical environment and the concepts of location, distance, and direction on maps and globes.

SPECTACULAR SPECIALS

Artists at HIS are going to be learning about the color wheel and how to mix primary colors to make secondary colors. They will be glazing their ceramics projects and creating a brown paper bag portfolio to carry all their artwork home. You can check out our digital portfolios at <https://www.artsonia.com/schools/school.asp?id=47315>

Students are working on basic computer skills and our Computer lab Tech Apps provides a time and space to develop these computer skills not directly related to classroom curriculum. Basic computer skills include, email, word processing, presentations, graphics and drawing tools.

Students are conducting independent learning in the areas of animal adaptation and convergent evolution. Their learning is centered on Madagascar and how it and its inhabitants have changed over time. Their final product will focus on one of these topics.

From the Library:

3rd Grade Read Aloud

Snot Stew by Bill Wallace

4th Grade Read Aloud

The Ghost of Fossil Glen by Cynthia DeFelice

5th Grade Read Aloud

A Dog Called Kitty by Bill Wallace

Specials Read Aloud

The Invisible Boy by Trudy Ludwig

HIS Fall Scholastic Book Fair-ending Friday, September 27th

Happy Reading!

Musicians at HIS will be learning about stage and audience etiquette. We will be showcasing our musical trip around the world on October 1 at 6pm in the HIS Cafetorium. Students will present music from the US, Mexico, Israel, India, and Australia.

En la clase de español, we will be learning/reviewing: rutinas diarias, aficiones, la familia, las profesiones, los animales, y los 21 países de habla Hispana.

PE Students at HIS are continuing to learn about fall sports. We have concluded our Volleyball unit and are moving right along into Football, where they are developing a unique set of hand-eye coordination skills. We are also constantly striving to improve upon our overall fitness levels!

Special Education and Interventions

Choose Love Bugs in Queen Bee Dupree's garden are busy pollinating peers and choosing to work through difficulties by doing the right thing, even when afraid, with courage. 3rd, 4th & 5th graders continue on their flight to become more independent learners and more accountable for their learning of ability-level and grade-level fluency, vocabulary, expository writing, planning, revising, editing, comprehension, parts of speech, analyzing text; math facts, perimeter, area, rounding, and decimals. These delicate bugs will also focus on specific goals and objectives per their IEPs (Individualized Education Plans) to fill any gaps in learning all while "choosing love and having a lot of fun!"

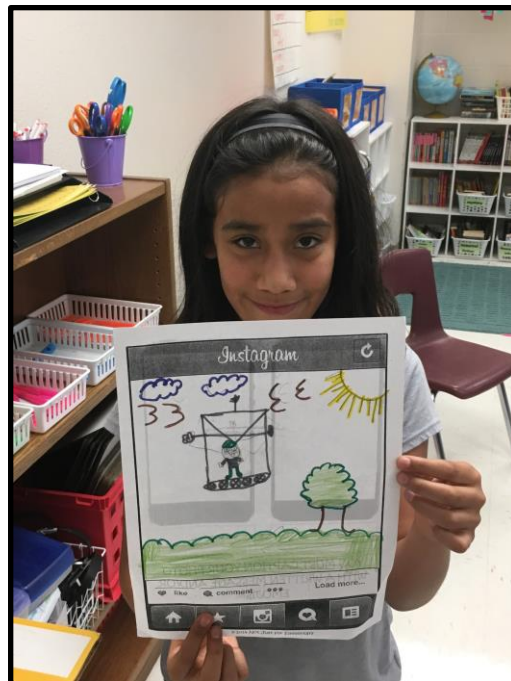
The Life Skills class will be exploring a unit based on weather, including weather conditions and temperatures. Students will explore descriptions of different types of weather and how this may affect clothing choices and activities. We are also busy learning new skills in the kitchen and serving up some tasty treats for the teachers to enjoy. We look forward to practicing our bowling skills during the month of October to get ready for the Special Olympic Bowling meet to be held November 13th in Killeen, Texas. Looking forward to all the fun activities Fall brings to us!

In the Eagle Reading Academy/Tier 2 Reading, students will be working on goals they have set for themselves in reading. This will include making progress in their word accuracy, fluency levels, vocabulary skills, understanding what they are reading by visualization, asking questions, making inferences, and connections in their reading. We will also review their first reading CBA and analyzing questions that were not understood. Students are made aware of their independent and instructional reading levels and will be working in a guided reading setting, as well as in the classroom, and at home to make progress and show gains in their reading throughout this school year.

In ESL, students will begin reading several informative texts. They will identify text features and text structures within informational text. Students will also use a variety of strategies such as visualizing, making connections, and asking questions to monitor their own reading comprehension. Students will also continue to have opportunities to build listening comprehension through a variety of listening activities.

In Eagle Math Academy/Tier 2 Math students will be reviewing the first math CBA, We will be analyzing questions. Which questions did we miss and why? What can we do differently next time. We will identify patterns in math facts to help us become more fluent mathematicians. We will identify even and odd numbers, Compare and order whole numbers, compose and decompose numbers and represent decimals with base ten blocks.

The Math Co-Teach classes will be going over their first CBA and reviewing over problems that they had difficulty with. They will then apply strategies to work these problems correctly. The 5th grade Co-Teach Math classes will be covering dividing fractions. The 3rd and 4th grade Co-Teach Math classes will be covering two-step problems involving multiplication and division.



IMPORTANT DATES

October 7 Parent Conference Day

October 8 Holiday

October 9 Team Meetings, Math Data Digs, and Design Team Meeting

October 10 Team Leader Meeting 2:45, Telpas Talks, ELAR Data Digs

October 11 Picture Retakes, Big Kahuna Delivery 1-4, and Science and SS Data Digs

October 14 Design Day for New Teachers

October 15 5th Grade Family Night (Perot Museum will be here, join us from 5:00-7:00 in the cafeteria)

October 16 SST Meetings for 3rd grade

October 17 SST Meetings for 4th grade

October 18 SST Meetings for 5th grade

Enrollment for 2019-2020:

3rd: 143

4th: 131
5th: 144
Total: 418
Attendance Rate: 97.6%

HIS would like to thank you for all you do for our campus and district!

GO EAGLES!