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**Articles from fall semester Major Units of Study as well as new spring ones.**

**Important dates to remember!**

# The Intermediary

**WINGS Winter/Spring Newsletter 2012**

FALL MAJOR UNIT WRAP-UPS

## YOUNG EINSTEINS

This 15 week course, taught by Paula Pursley and Tim Mills, encompassed many aspects of beginning chemistry. Students researched the Periodic Table of Elements, learning unique traits of the 112 identified elements. Each week students donned their lab aprons and goggles as they joined partners in the labs for various experiments. Using Bunsen burners, chem plates, beakers, test tubes, and many other pieces of lab equipment, students explored the following topics: Chemical Reactions, Creation of Compounds, Acids and Bases, Identification of Metals and Burning of Metal Chlorides, Oxidation, Presence of Carbon, Polymers, Anatomy of Bubbles, and an all-day Forensics Investigation including many aspects and testing techniques used to solve crimes.

Two field trips were taken by our chemistry students. Pinnacle Sign taught us how neon signs are created and Springfield Hot Glass allowed us to view chemistry at work in the community. Both of these trips were financed by a Foundation for Springfield Public Schools grant written by Paula Pursley last spring.

Working in partnership with MSU students, Nano Technology was explored, along with the color spectrum and the use of various light sources with spectroscopes. MSU students presented some possible medical uses for gold nanos and our Young.....

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## Justice Prevails at WINGS

Room 202 at WINGS became a courtroom this fall as students demonstrated what they had learned in their study of our country's justice system in *Justice for All*, taught by Marcia Johnson.

Students looked at the differences in civil, criminal, and juvenile law as they prepared to take on legal roles. Speakers from the legal profession answered a barrage of questions about what it is like to be an attorney or a judge.

To learn about famous trials from history, students researched one case with a partner, presenting their knowledge to the class by writing and acting out a skit, or taking on the persona of journalists on the scene. They created PowerPoint presentations showing several actual photographs from the case.

Trials performed in class gave students the chance to take on the roles of attorney, judge, or witness.



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## MINDSTORMS

**GEAR HEAD:** *n.* someone who likes to problem solve while using LEGO technology; a person who is into all things motorized and enjoys learning about advanced machines. This definition describes the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students that enrolled in the MINDSTORMS major unit class this fall with Ms. Meredith Burstin and Mrs. Debbie Clary. Thanks to a grant from the Foundation for Springfield Public Schools and additional Phelps funds, this class was able to benefit from using the latest in LEGO MINDSTORM technology. Students were able to work in teams to learn about science and math concepts such as simple and complex machines, physics, engineering and computer programming.

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**YOUNG EINSTEINS**

Einsteins were able to work with gold nano solutions in the labs. Our fourth and fifth grade students discovered that CHEMISTRY ROCKS!



Students created models for elements from the Periodic Table. Sub-atomic particles were illustrated with the proper number of beans and rice (protons, neutrons, and electrons.)

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**JUSTICE FOR ALL**

On our field trip students visited Juvenile Hall, the Greene County Courthouse, the Federal Courthouse and the U.S. Marshals' office. Highlights of the trip were visiting with judges in their courtrooms and with attorneys in the Lawyer's Lounge, sitting in the judge's chair in Probate Court, and learning about how our Juvenile Court system tries to help young people in trouble.



**Important Dates To Remember**



**Phelps Chess Club** (2:45- 3:45)

January 23, 24, 25, 26  
 February 13,14, 15, 16  
 March 12, 13, 14, 15

**Phelps Green Team** ( 2:45- 3:45 pm)

April 16, 17, 18, 19  
 May 7, 8, 9, 10

**MMAT- NO WINGS**

**Gifted Education Week**

February 27 28 29 & March 1

**Career Kaleidoscope**

April 23, 24, 25, 26

**Spring Break**

March 19, 20, 21, 22

*It is not enough to have a good mind; the main thing is to use it well. — Rene Descartes*

**Shakespeare**  
**“All the World’s a Stage”**

An Outdoor Shakespeare Festival showcased great scenes, our Create a Stage Calendar Project highlighted writings and art, and our Festival of Plays brought the old Bard back to life to the delight of WINGS class casts and audiences.

Each day's class, taught by Gina Wyckoff and Catherine Gilpin included an ensemble cast reading, researching, writing, memorizing lines, blocking, rehearsing, and planning the final productions. Memorable stage moments were captured as students, new and old to the stage, honed their craft.

In October each cast presented Jacques' Seven Ages of Man speech from As You Like It before

performing sonnets, and speeches from Julius Caesar and Henry IV, and great scenes from Hamlet, Macbeth, Twelfth Night, Romeo and Juliet, The Tempest, and A Midsummer Night's Dream for students, families and other special guests.

In November students wrote and illustrated works (i. e. sonnets, essays, bios, etc.) for individualized Create a Stage Project calendars.

After each student received a free calendar, \$770 was raised.

In December Monday's cast produced The Tempest, Tuesday's cast produced Twelfth Night, Wednesday's cast produced The Taming of the Shrew, and Thursday's cast produced A Midsummer Night's Dream for students, families and other special guests.

*Thanks to all who made this class a success.*



## **CSI-CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATORS**

In the Major Unit CSI, WINGS students explored forensic science. They learned about fingerprints and fingerprinting, handwriting analysis, chromatography, investigation of mystery powders, lip printing, and dental impressions. Each week students solved a mystery of the week including spotting the differences by utilizing their observation skills. Students compiled a personal profile called a

“dossier” to simulate an authentic crime portfolio. Guest speakers included the Greene County Sheriff’s Department, Springfield & Willard Police Departments, Greene County Crime Lab, and MODOT. The unit culminated with team challenges to apply all the learned forensic science to solve several mysteries.



## **WINTER/SPRING MAJOR UNITS OFFERINGS**

### **Just Act 2!**

#### **Springfield’s Theatre History Live on Stage**

What is legacy and how might Springfield preserve its legacy of theatre history?

By combining a love for acting, historical research, journalism and play writing, watch as Springfield’s theater history comes alive on stage. These third, fourth and fifth grade students taught by Gina Wyckoff will interview people in the know, dive into archives, and ask questions to create newspapers and living timelines. Watch as they go through the process of researching, developing play concepts, writing, rehearsing, and producing historic plays where all may learn of this legacy and help preserve it.

### **MINDSTORMS**

This class is being offered to 3rd, 4th and 5th graders for the winter/spring semester by Ms. Meredith Burstin and Mrs. Debbie Clary.. See article on first page for more details.

### **JUSTICE FOR ALL**

This class is being offered on Wednesday and Thursday this semester by Mrs. Marcia Johnson. See the article on page 1 for more details.

### **SCIENCE EVERYWHERE**

This major unit class, taught by Paula Pursley and Tim Mills, will offer an exciting view of the world of physics. Students will discover that physical science is all around us...in everything that flies, flashes, floats or flutters! Our class will delve into Newton’s Laws, Gas Laws, Parabolic Trajectory, Rate of Descent, and many other science concepts. Those with a competitive spirit and a love for science exploration will definitely enjoy this class. Using hands-on experiments, (both inside and outside), we will study the variables that affect rockets, magnets, rubber band catapults, pasta bridges, egg drops, and hot air balloons. A culminating event will be our very own competition, the Phelps Science Olympiad, to be held later in the Spring. Just a word of caution, though...watch for falling objects!

### **Loop It!**

In the Major Unit “Loop It!” WINGS students will be investigating the physics of roller coasters. They will study force, motion, gravity, momentum and energy. They will learn the science behind the planning of the world’s best roller coasters and the math behind the ride. In cooperation with Silver Dollar City, students will take part in a Science and Math Day Competition on April 12<sup>th</sup> against area Middle and High School Students. Be prepared to hang on!

### **RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARTIFACT**

What is it about archaeology that is so very, very cool? We will get to learn about the terms, tools, and techniques of archaeology by using them. We will visit and learn from real, live archaeologists how they do what they do and why. Are you interested in learning more about our own pre-history in this place? We will do that, too! Then you will mount either an individual or group “expedition” to “discover” a world famous artifact which will include creative journaling, map-making, submitting an expedition budget, and creating a replica of your artifact for our Archaeological Museum. You then get to design a museum display for your artifact, journal, maps, etc. – the museum will

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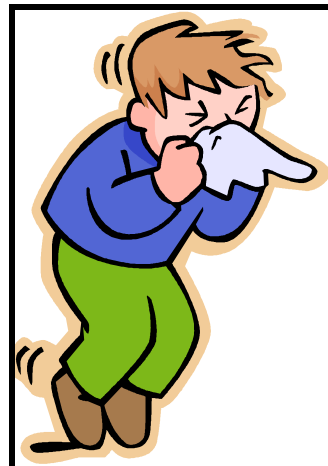
**Raiders of the Lost Artifact Remix ... continued from page 3**

be open to the parents, and Phelps students while the *Raiders Remix* students (you!) will serve as docents. So, if you like science and culture and journaling and art, this has them all – and more!

***SUPPLIES NEEDED***

***PARENTS:***

***As the cold season is upon us we find ourselves needing tissues, Clorox wipes, and hand sanitizer. If you would like to make a donation we would greatly appreciate your kindness.***



***VISIT PHELPS CENTER FOR GIFTED EDUCATION ON THE WEB @ <http://sps.k12.mo.us/phelps/>***

**2<sup>nd</sup> Cup of Coffee**

Come join our counselor, Mrs. Lori Brock, for one or all of these meetings.

**January 18** – Myths of Gifted Education - in the APR

**February 15** – Summer Opportunities with representatives – in the Library

**March 14** – Intensities w/ Brandi Klepper – in the Library

**May 2** - STEM Panel - in the Library

**All starting at 9AM – 10:15AM**

**PAGE**

**Parents and Advocates for Gifted Education has their own FACEBOOK page. You simply need to “like” it to get the updates from PAGE. If you have something to post on the PAGE FACEBOOK page contact Stephanie Summers @ [ssummers@spsmail.org](mailto:ssummers@spsmail.org).**

