

September 14, 2012 –Staunton City Schools Tip Sheet

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SHELBURNE STUDENTS CREATE TOPOGRAPHICAL MAPS

Sixth grade history students worked in groups to create a topographical map of the United States. Each group, named after one of the original colonies, pooled their resources to represent the features of the geographic regions. As they worked, teachers asked questions about how these features affected the way humans lived and worked in each region. For instance, one colony used dried wheat seeds to represent the Great Plains, a region known for its grasslands. Another colony placed a plastic toy boat along the east coast to indicate that the Coastal Plain provides many harbors and bays, great places for fishing and trading.

This activity not only helps teach the regions and their features, and why colonists had to work together, but students are also learning how their own brains learn. Shelburne student, Darius Harris said, “We work in colonies so we can help each other. If colonist Casey knew something I didn’t, it is something new I [can] learn. That helps my brain grow.”



Shelburne students Gwendolyn Ragland, Tyquan Smith and Taylor Smith work together on a topographical map.

WARE STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT BUSINESS

Third grade students at Ware Elementary School have started a unit called "The T-Shirt Factory". This unit focuses on developing student understanding of place value, computation, and economics. The students will create mock factories that will produce student-made t-shirts. The unit will culminate with students designing and producing t-shirts which will be sold to the student body. Proceeds will be used to purchase supplies to continue the project in future years.



Allyson Hiner, Dajor Carter, Christopher Thompson, and Elijah Mylar work together on supply calculations for the third grade T-Shirt Factory



Third grade student, Christopher Thompson bundles hangers in preparation for building orders for the T-Shirt Factory.

MCSWAIN KINDERGARTEN HONORS GRANDPARENTS

Kindergarten students at McSwain Elementary School recently invited their grandparents to school in celebration of Grandparent’s Day. The Kindergarteners put on a performance for their grandparents, singing songs they learned in class. After the performance, the kindergarteners enjoyed cake with their grandparents and gave them a tour, proudly showing off their classrooms.



McSwain kindergarten students honor their grandparents with a musical performance.

STUDENTS STUDY LOCAL ARTIST

The students at the Shenandoah Valley Juvenile Center enjoyed a week of inquiry about the life of Grandma Moses, the celebrated artist who once owned the farm that is now the site of the Shenandoah Valley Juvenile Center. Students studied her life, her artwork, and the historical events during her lifetime. On Friday, September 7, the students enjoyed cake in honor of her birthday and shared conversation about this unique woman.

