



Keeping You in the Loop

For the Parents of Dr. Donahue's Gifted Students

March 16, 2022

We are beginning the last nine weeks of the 2021-2022 school year! As I mentioned in our last newsletter, I am sad to see my eighth graders go but excited that I get to spend another year or two with my sixth and seventh grade students.

Here are some updates about what we have been doing in class:

- Seventh and eighth graders completed construction and programming of their robots and made their presentations. Sixth grade has been constructing theirs!
- Sixth graders have progressed in their cross-curricular study of "Hidden Figures." Seventh and eighth graders are starting their study this week.
- We completed the bridge design competition. I would like to recognize **Jackson Lilly**. His bridge design was ranked among the top 1/3 of designs submitted across the state. This is remarkable given the short time that he had to create and submit a design. Also, this ranking includes high school entries. Very close behind him was **Ves Carr**. I am working on a unit for next year that centers on bridges. I am planning a visit to the New River Gorge Bridge. I think it will be an awesome learning experience! The final project will be the bridge design competition. I think we will be very competitive!
- We had three guest speakers visit our class from Appalachian Headwaters. Sixth graders got to walk outside and observe our spring flowers and trees. It was a little too cold for seventh and eighth graders to go outside. The focus of the presentation was pollinators. I am thankful for the opportunity to have scientists talk to the students. The presentation has prepared them for our field trip scheduled for April 13th.

I would like to congratulate **Maya Panta** for her first-place win in the West Virginia State Science Fair! We are very proud of you, Maya!

Congratulations also to **Bria Donatelli**, whose essay won third place for 8th grade in the county Young Writers competition. **Nathan Blankenship's** essay won second place in the county for fifth/sixth grade. Great job! We are proud of you!