



Coulwood's Talent Development Newsletter

Language Arts Update

The following activities are a sampling of what's been happening in standard plus and honors language arts classes. Please contact Wendy Adornato, Coulwood's academic facilitator, if you have any questions.

In 6th grade, students focused on elements of fictional text. While reading *Catherine Called Birdy* and *The Midwife's Apprentice*, students created a medieval character and wrote diary entries as that character. During their study of realistic fiction, students created character-driven comic strips with well-developed settings and plots.

In 7th grade, students were fully engaged in the problem/solution process, applying it to editorials and writing their own problem/solution essays and advertisements. Students also studied content text and created brochures of world locations that summarize those locations' features.

In 8th grade, students continued their study of the problem/solution process by writing essays based on editorial cartoons. They created newspapers with articles that demonstrate the common organizational pat-

terns and visual features of informational text. By the end of the quarter, students interviewed each other and their families and applied their learning by writing biographies, autobiographies, and photobiographies.



Winter is an etching, spring a watercolor, summer an oil painting, and autumn a mosaic of them

News from Mathematics

The following activities are a sampling of what's been happening in honors math classes. Please contact Bob McKay, Coulwood's math facilitator, if you have any questions.

In 6th grade, students have been keeping an ongoing interactive notebook of their learning about integers and fractions. They have completed

triangle puzzles for both areas of study.

In 7th grade, students extended their learning of percent of change by completing a population project. They have also visually represented the estimation of square roots and the Pythagorean Theorem.

In 8th grade algebra, students studied polynomials, a concept entirely new to them. They practiced adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing polynomials and applied their learning to word problems involving polynomials.

Websites of Interest:

- CMS TD Program (<http://www.cms.k12.nc.us/cmsdepartments/ci/astd/Pages/default.aspx>)
- National Association for Gifted Children (www.nagc.org)
- Child Development Institute (http://www.childdevelopmentinfo.com/learning/gifted_children.shtml#)