

Good morning! I hope everyone is having a good Thanksgiving break!

Next week, we will be working on new chapters in Science and Social Studies. In Science, we will be working on plants, including vascular and non-vascular plants. I have a quick experiment scheduled for Monday to show how vascular plants transport water and minerals throughout the plant. In Social Studies, we are beginning Life in the English Colonies.

Our poet for next week is Naomi Shahib Nye. She has a clean, modern style I think students will enjoy. I am working on a unit on the Illinois Constitution, and government in general. It's primarily geared toward the Illinois Constitution Test for the 8th graders, but I think I will modify it and use it for the entire class. I am working on rearranging our afternoons with Language Arts and Grammar to make it part of our regular schedule, along with an element of politics as well. I was going to start our new novels next week, but I didn't want to get halfway through the book and be interrupted by the Winter Break. I think instead I will have the class read A Christmas Carol and I will add in some activities and writing projects.

We have some upcoming events:

\*Tuesday, December 3- 8th graders will be out Tuesday morning for PSAT testing at CCHS

\*Friday, December 6- We have a guest coming in!

\*Friday, December 13- School book-swap

\*Saturday, December 14- Barnes and Noble Book Fair

\*Wednesday, December 18- Locker clean out and Winter Program

\*Thursday, December 19 (all day) and Friday, December 20- Student-led conferences

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me!

Heather