

OCTOBER 2018

QUEST QUARTER 1

PREMIER CHARTER SCHOOL GIFTED AND ENRICHMENT EDUCATION

WELCOME TO QUEST

- Let's welcome our new students to Quest: Saphira Tenny, Reese Owen, Gwen Gordan, Issac Greer, Camilia Lasiter, Thayne Creacy, Joshua Robin and Parker Nall

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THEMES FOR THIS QUARTER

1st: Amazing Race: National Monument Ed.

2ND: Engineering Rube Goldberg

3RD/4TH: Mobile Museum: Missouri Natural History

5TH: Blast off to a new planet

THEMES FOR THIS YEAR

6TH: GREEN SCHOOLS QUEST

7TH: BEHIND THE MUSIC: MUSIC THROUGH THE STEAM LENS

8TH: EXPLORE PROSTHETICS: SCIENCE, MEDICINE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, MATH, AND HISTORY

ELEMENTARY UPDATE

1st: First grade started out with creating a game for their grade level to capitalize on their learning of National Monuments. Since many of the students were trying out Quest this quarter until testing was completed this was a good way to see how students work in a group, articulate their ideas and are motivated to push beyond the basic parameters of their learning. It was easy to see in this project the students that wanted to push things to the next level.

2nd: Starting out with coteaching in their classroom students were very excited to learn more about the power of simple machines. In the Quest Lab we began reading Rube Goldberg comics, identifying simple machines, synthesizing the information to create our own Rube Goldberg machines to do work that is needed around the school.

3rd/4th: After studying various plant and animal lifecycles, students will design and create plant and animal museum exhibits. They will be able to see how changes to plants and ecosystems affect living organisms who live there. Their final project will be reporting on a problem in the environment and how they believe it will affect the ecosystem.

5th: Students will be describing the significance of space by exploring planets, the moon, and the sun to create a cumulative visual/multimedia project of their choice that will be presented on a planet that they created.



GLOBAL GOALS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INCLUDE:

NO POVERTY NO HUNGER GOOD HEALTH
QUALITY EDUCATION GENDER EQUALITY
CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
RENEWABLE ENERGY RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION
GOOD JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
CLIMATE ACTION PEACE AND JUSTICE
REDUCED INEQUITIES
PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



7TH GRADE UPDATE

The 7th graders have been exploring science “Behind the Music,” including experiments which help them understand and visualize various measures of sound. They have created string telephones to understand how sound travels through vibrations, and they have seen the impact of sound vibrations by dipping a tuning fork into water, clanging a pan near rice, strumming rubber bands wrapped around a cup, and observing a ping pong ball touched by a tuning fork. The tuning fork instrument has helped the 7th graders explore sound vibrations and their intensity or loudness. To explore the speed of vibrations and pitch, students created and played kazoos. Finally, students have used a sound-level meter to record the decibel level of various sounds and explore the decibel scale, understanding the relative loudness of sounds as perceived by the human ear. They learned about the causes of hearing loss as well as the factors that affect how loud a sound is. 7th graders enjoyed collecting the decibel level for sounds they hear every day around the school, such as a locker slamming. A number of them attended the Black Violin concert and were able to appreciate and enjoy the music while gathering ideas for their final project, which will be an album with songs that focus on mental health issues and suicide prevention as well as music for a play that highlights nonviolence and peace.

6TH GRADE UPDATE

The Quest 6th graders have started collaborating on projects designed to encourage green living and sustainability at PCS. Our projects will be entered into the Green Schools Quest competition for the United States Green Buildings Council in the Missouri Gateway Chapter. 6th graders in Quest are working on initiatives to make a butterfly garden and have students understand the amount of waste each person creates by having them carry their own “Trash for a Day.” Our Green Schools Quest mentor Michael Rodney of M2Architecture Studio has visited weekly since the start of October to help plan the project. Currently, we are in the research phase, and the students are gathering information about butterflies and their impact on the ecosystem, how to start a butterfly garden with the appropriate plants, and how the butterfly garden could be created at our school.

8TH GRADE UPDATE

The 8th grade Quest team has been exploring the UN Global Goals as they relate to this year’s project, specifically stereotypes and their impact on society. A number of 8th graders were able to enjoy the Black Violin concert which had a theme of defying stereotypes. The Quest students along with four additional students were recruited to implement lessons for the entire 8th grade body centered around the topic of stereotypes, how they’re formed, and the impact of them. 8th graders along with all of the middle school Quest students have watched CNN student news at least once a week to become more knowledgeable about what is happening around the world. During the next phase of their work, they will learn more about how stereotypes affect people with disabilities before delving into research about and the actual creation of prosthetic limb prototypes. The first iterations of their limbs, which will be created with everyday supplies and recycled materials, have to pass a series of physical tests to be considered successful working prototypes. Finally, they’ll develop an understanding of the current technologies that have revolutionized prosthetics and develop ideas to improve their prosthetic limbs with technology.