

September 13  
2013

## GT's Inquiring Minds

### Three Weeks In...

And I am thoroughly enjoying my new position as the Valley View GT specialist! Your kids are amazing! Each day brings new discoveries and joy. Most of the students have had a chance to share their summer "Tread" which gave me a chance to get to know each of them. We had a blast hearing about the various summer adventures of our classmates and the end Tread products were impressively creative! This week we have focused on thinking skills and learning new routines (I more than they!). By next week, all classes will be engrossed in their first project.

### Think Labs!

The second week of school, I provided all third and fifth grade classes a chance to come to the GT classroom for a "Think Lab." I taught the students that, like our heart or lungs, our brains can get stronger with exercise! I posed a unique problem for which they had to find a solution. We used brainstorming to enhance our brain's fluency, and then practiced divergent thinking by coming up with new and creative ways to solve the problem. All of the students had a great time and hopefully feel free to think divergently!



### GT Schedule

1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	M, W, F	10:15-11:00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	M, T, Th, F	9:20 – 10:00
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	M, T, Th	1:00 – 1:45
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	T, W, Th	11:00 – 11:50
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	M, T, W, Th.	7:50 – 8:45

## This week's highlights!

**Fifth graders** have enthusiastically taken on the challenge of designing their ideal school. We'll present our findings to Mrs. Dusek next week!

**Fourth graders** taught Mrs. Abell about Stories with a Hole. Aubry lead the way, and the class used some great deductive reasoning to find their answer!

We learned the importance of communication in both the **third and fifth grade** classes.

Students discovered that they have to pay attention to both verbal and non-verbal communication. They built some amazing paper structures in the process!

We used our iPads to take pictures from different perspectives in **second grade**. The students will create their own perspectives book.

The **first graders** are cute and so eager to show all that they know! Through a series of games, they are learning about deductive reasoning! Impressive.



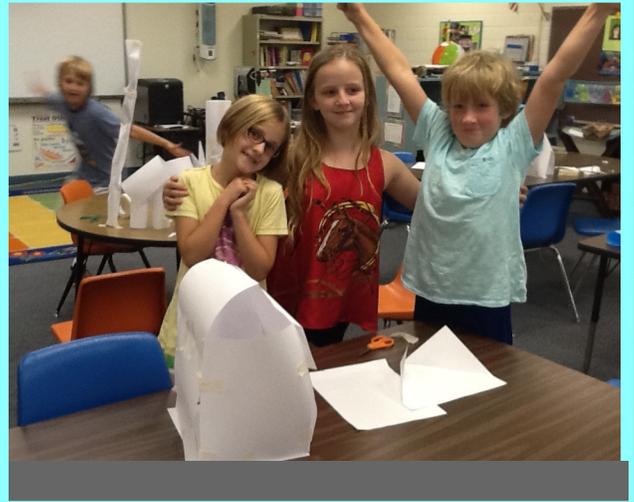
Second graders enjoyed learning about perspective! We see things differently when we look up, or down!



It has been a great beginning!



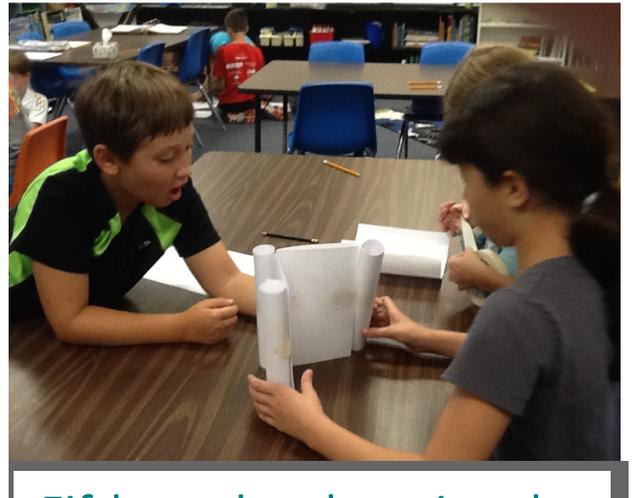
First graders identify and categorize blocks by their attributes.



Third graders learning to collaborate.



Fourth graders work together to activate prior knowledge.



Fifth graders learning the importance of communication!

