

# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

May 9th - May 13th



We started our penultimate week of our penultimate session of the year with a quick breakdown of the schedule and an vote in favor of Awareness as our Character Trait of the Week. After that, and through the rest of the week, the learners started, worked on, and completed over 100 of the IOWA Standardized Tests! We go through testing once per year to get a touch point as to where our learners score in terms of statewide learning goals, but the main thing to keep in mind is just doing your best, and enjoying testing snacks. Some finished faster than others so they were able to keep working on their Core Skills goals as well. Regardless of if they were testing or just working on Core Skills, everyone indulged in many a dance party, wiggle, and stretch break.

Quest, Writer's Worskhop, Art, and PE all continued as they began to wrap up along with the session. Launchpad's biology labs, Foundation and Navigator's custom games, and all the amazing Stop Motion animations made this week one for the history books.





# Quest

Second to last week of the session meant the dial turned up to eleven as the Foundation and Navigators continued their quest through Game Design by slowly but surely turning their rough drafts into finished, polished, amazing games! But there were some bumps on the road; some learners struggled to pull everything together, others got stuck in the persnickety world of writing and editing their rules, and for others it all seemed to be a breeze! Just one more week till they get to show off their hard work to the public and they can't wait.

Launchpad analyzed data collected in their air quality lab to see how much ozone they detected in our area, they set up a lichen lab they'll be showing off at Exhibition, and made progress on their final projects. What a busy week!



the navs testing each other's games  
foundation's books are getting illustrated!



## Writer's Workshop

In Foundation, WW time was spent finalizing the wording and diving into illustrating their custom children's books. During this process, they began to bind their books and just seeing these all put together takes one's breath away.

The Navigators continued to hone their technical writing skills with playtesting and editing. The process is long and arduous, but their writing has never been better!

Launchpad picked up right where they left off last week with their two-in-one WW. Together, they wrote some excellent reviews of recently published articles, and they perfected emails which went out to potential apprenticeships!

## Art

Because of testing, there wasn't a significant focus on History/Civilization this week, though some learners still showed intentionality by dedicating time toward it. Art was very much a highlight of the week, though, as all the learners continued to make tons of progress on their animations. Some continued to tweak and perfect their characters and setting, others went right along with the 'filming' process, and some even finished! There is still time to 'film,' edit, add effects, supplement with audio, but these projects are looking great! They'll be displaying them at Exhibition in just about a week, and it'll be hard to pick a favorite.



In addition to all of this, we held a Shell Shop mid-week and had Dress-Like-An-Eagle-Or-Guide Day on Friday! Shell Shop was a blast as both Foundation and Navigator elected to purchase a Movie Day as a group in addition to buying some things of their own. So Friday turned into a super fun day as Navigator enjoyed *Detective Pikachu* and Foundation watched *The Sandlot*.