

Home-School Connection #13

12.11.14



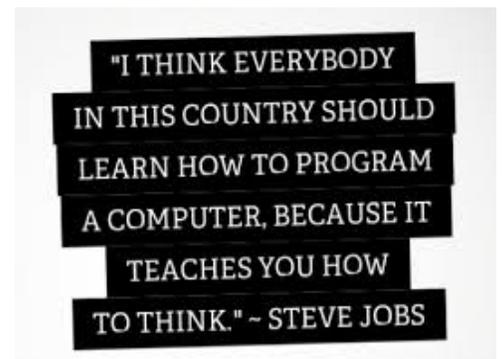
Write a thought provoking question for at least 4 of the topics.

SCIENCE SOLSTICE: Friday, 12.12.14, (interesting date), is Driscoll's Science Solstice. You will have a chance to do optics as you learn about telescopes, binoculars and microscopes. You will meet some birds of prey from the Blue Hills, and you will see a program from the Museum of Science about electromagnetism. So, what did you focus on? (Pun intended)

HOUR OF CODE: This week, Mr. Thomas taught you about the Hour of Code in the Computer Lab. For some of you, this was brand new. For some of you, it was similar to your experience with the computer program called Scratch.

Here is the video about it. <http://hourofcode.com/us>

I noticed that many of you chose to do part of your Web-nes-day doing more with the hour of code. Do you agree with the Steve Jobs quote?



MURDER OF CROWS: You had a chance to watch most of another amazing movie done by 'Nature' called, *A Murder of Crows*. Over time, crows have been seen as pests and bad omens, but research is showing how caring, social and intelligent they are. They are now considered one of the smartest animals on the planet. Try to explain some of the experiments you saw in the movie with the mask and the New

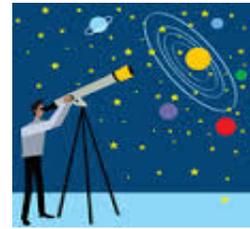


Caledonian Crow. If you want to see that part it's at minutes 13:40

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/a-murder-of-crows-full-episode/597>

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TUESDAY NEWSDAY/TFK: This week there was a short article in the TFK called *Unrest in Ferguson*. In order to learn from and understand how this issue connects to other issues in US history, I asked you to write down, in your own words, the meaning of the words *racism* and *bias*. What did you write? Do your parents have a different or similar way of describing those words? I also asked you to write two questions about the article. I am going to write all your questions on one sheet for you to look at and compare. You will see how thoughtful and insightful they are.

OTHER NEWS: The Time for Kids also included: an article about a baby-penguin robot built to study the natural behaviors of penguins; an article about toxic algae on the great lakes, (sad); and the debate over whether food companies should use GMO's. GMO stands for Genetically Modified Organisms. Do your parents have an opinion about GMO's? Do you?

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- OTHER: Dismissal Ideas, Hope, Dreams & Wants, Verb tenses, Looking Carefully at Poems, Web-nesday, Having a substitute, Morning Meeting topics, other?

What did you talk about?

- SPECIALS: Library (You got at least one book about your renowned revolutionary relative!) Chinese (transportation pinyin & characters,) Art (missed - early dismissal) Music (songs), P.E. (fitness gram)

Due: Monday: We made a time to do this on:_____ Parent Signature & Comments:

Student Rating (1-5)

Please say why and which topics lead to the most in-depth discussions.