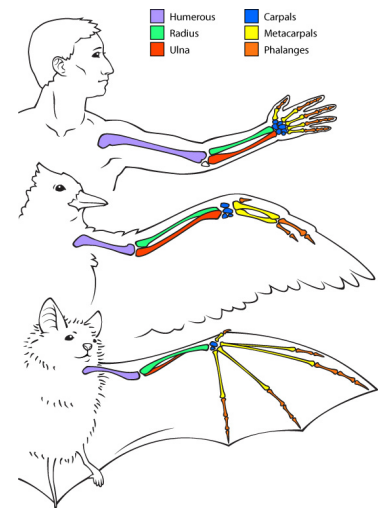# 13th Home-School Connection

Happy 2013!

Wow, there certainly are a lot of 13's. I hope you think 13 are a lucky number, since we are now in the year 2013.

☐ **NEW TEAMS BASED ON COLONIAL FAMILIES;**
  o You now know your colonial family and who is in it. Are you an Adams, Franklin, Revere, or Washington? What did you and your team choose for a team name? Are you happy with it? What's going on your team poster? Describe your family tree so far. What part of your family life will be fiction and what will be non-fiction? What are some questions you have about your family?

☐ **SPEAKING OF QUESTIONS:** We had 9 or 10 Harvard students come and visit our class on Thursday. They joined our morning meeting and moved around with you as you wrote down your questions on different topics that had to do with colonial America. How was the process of writing down your questions on the heels of other people having written theirs down before you? I kept asking you to read what other people wrote before you wrote down your ideas. Did reading other people's questions give you questions? How was it having the group of students in our class too? Do you remember any of your questions? What do you remember people wrote?
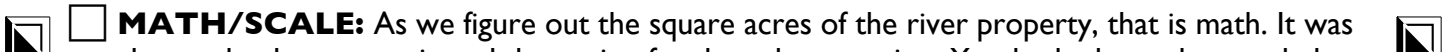
Humerous	Carpals
Radius	Metacarpals
Ulna	Phalanges

☐ **BIRDS: I**maginary and Real: You had a bit of time to look at the 'real' bird you're studying and the bird you are designing. We also spent some time reading about bird flight, wings and feathers. We looked at a picture of the bones in a bird wing and a human arm. Were you surprised by how similar they are? On Monday, we will look more at different types of feathers and what their functions are, and we will look at varying bird nests.

☐ **ANIMAL RESEARCH:** On Friday, you got the packet to fill in for your animal research. When the packet is done, you will start to write your animal story. It is very similar to the work you are doing on the river table because both of them are fiction stories that are based on facts. The river table will be historical fiction. Your animal story will be scientific fiction.
  o Do you think creating something that is totally fiction is easier or harder than creating a story that is based on facts?

  o Speaking of animal research, we finished watching the latest Nature Movie called *Odd Couples*. I have posted it on our class website. What did you find most interesting? Humans raised most of the 'odd couples'. Do you think any of these odd couples would happen in the wild?

☐ **RIVER TABLE:** The land on the river table has been divided into segments for the four families and for common land and business properties. Are you happy with your property? Why or why not? Some people have started to design houses and boats they might put on the table. Some people have started to bring in 'farm' animals to put on the river table. What are some of your plans? We are going to have to figure out how many acres of land each family has.

☐ **MATH/SCALE:** As we figure out the square acres of the river property, that is math. It was also math when we reviewed the topic of scale and proportion. You looked at a sheet to help us think about how to put objects into proportion with other objects. Can you describe this process to your parents? The refrigerator, flashlight, fire hydrant, bicycle, ice cream cone, etc. Our river table does not need to be totally in scale, but it will be good to think about it as you design houses, boats, furniture, household equipment, etc.

☐ **DECIMALS/FRACTIONS/PERCENTS and RATIOS:** In math, you also began to look at a typical school day and the fraction of time you spend doing different activities. Soon you will interview someone on your past team and figure out the their 'dream day' and what fraction of their day they would spend doing different activities. Speaking of decimals and fractions, we are also reviewing how to add, subtract, and multiply decimals. As you saw, the key to multiplying decimals is to estimate where the decimal point goes before you 'count' the places you had to move the decimal point. With addition and subtraction of decimals, you need to make sure you line up the decimal points so you don't make careless mistakes. Try to explain how you would *estimate* the answer to the following math problem: $.09 \times 1.02 = ?$ Would the answer be closer to 90.0 .900   9.00 or 900. ? Explain.
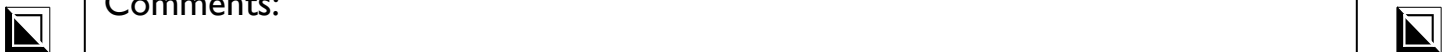
☐ **SPECIALS**: Describe what has been going on in Music, Art, P.E., Library, C.O.B (chorus, orchestra, band), and Chinese. In library, you heard the story, *Arrow Hawk.* Describe it. Why do you think Ms. Neale read it to you?

☐ **ANYTHING ELSE?** New lunch seats, Olweus Anti Bullying School Meeting and our class meeting after, Morning Meetings, Recess in the cold and snow, anything else? _____

Due: Monday, 1/07/13

We made a time to do the HSC on_____ Parent Signature: _____

Comments:

Student Rating: Please say why.