

September 24, 2019

Dear Parents,

Please find the attached research mini report and the links for your child to begin their research topic. As a part of our first fall research, we will be following the theme of Punkin Chunkin. This brings to the forefront three of the main devices used in the contest...but also their history. The three topics that are up for research are the catapult, the trebuchet and the cannon. Your child has drawn from a cup their proposed topic...but they have also been given the option to complete more than one research topic report. The list is divided with 8 of each of the 3 topics...but as stated your child can complete a second report and project to accompany their first.

The main goal is completion of the research paper, but almost more importantly for each report to have some visual component to describe and explain their topic. Past students have drawn pictures and diagrams (labeling all the parts), some have copied pages from books or magazines and added descriptors, and still others have created models or something 3-dimensional to share with the class and explain the parts of their siege device.

The class has been enjoying the first parts of the 2008 Punkin Chunkin contest and learning from the commentary about the physics and transfer of force with each device. We will commit time in class to work with devices I have constructed, as well as some mini constructions that the students will take part in to identify how each device works, and possibly point out their failure points.

We will compile the visual components (either scanning pictures or photographing models) for a video slideshow.

Please assist your child with their wording in their report...sometimes the more technical terminology can be challenging for them to read while sharing in class. There are several links that I have compiled on my site under the "Webquest" tab. This will redirect you to my webquest site and should explain more policy and procedure as well as provide links to academickids.com and other worthy articles for reading.

This is a fun beginning of the year research project, and the kids are excited. I hope this carries over into their research and writing!!

Mr. Brantley