

F.R.O.G.S. Flashes

Important News for Students in Grades 3, 4, and 5 and Their Parents



G/T Projects

All students in FROGS are expected to complete a project as part of the G/T program in HISD. This year the G/T Expo is currently scheduled for the Central Region on February 6, 2010. We will also be hosting a G/T Expo here at Poe Elementary prior to the regional exposition so both students and parents will have an opportunity to see what FROGS can accomplish.

Current project assignments focus on...

Grade 3 – Mystery Stories (Author's Chair and Radio Mystery Theater)

Grade 4 – Forensic Science

Grade 5 – Medieval or Renaissance Culture

3

4&5

Students in third grade will be crafting mystery stories in our FROGS Class. We will work on the writing process (specifically drafting, revision, and editing) and complete our final published product in November. While students will work during class time, periods between scheduled FROGS classes will require students work on their drafts.

We will use our class time for instruction in techniques to improve storytelling skills, and individual and small group conferencing to extend and enhance the students' first drafts. Written stories in a final draft format will be due on December 3, 2009. In our December meetings we will work on oral performance skills for story telling, and we will begin to explore "unsolved mysteries."

Grades 4 and 5 are expected to research a subtopic within the broader topic listed above.** Basic research will be completed during FROGS class time; however, students are encouraged to read more widely on their topics outside of class time and take advantage of any resources in the community they find to augment their basic research.

Students in grades 4 and 5 are expected to use their research notes developed in class to develop a written "report" and a product to extend their report (e.g., PowerPoint, three-fold board, oral presentation, "museum exhibit" or similar types of projects). Reports should be 300 words (minimum) in length. If students work with a partner, their report should be at least 400 words, with at least two additional sources. Additional expectations and due dates are on the next page.

** As always, if a child has a special interest he/she would like to research outside of our class topics, I will be glad to discuss his/her interest and work with the student to complete the project.

EXPO Project Expectations and Due Dates

Students in grades 4 and 5 will receive a work plan to organize their FROGS Expo project. The work plan should be kept in the FROGS folder; it will be stapled to the right inside folder in class. This will provide a focus for conversations about FROGS work you may wish to have with your child.

Grade 4 FROGS	Grade 5 FROGS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic selection and preliminary questions for research are due 10/21.* • Use of at least 4 sources, at least one of which is not on-line (book, periodical, interview, etc. are options) • Note cards for each source with basic bibliographic information for the source included (due 11/17/09) • Draft of report and note cards due 11/17/09 (I will pick these up in the student's homeroom) • Final report due 12/3/09 • Product due 12/3/09 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic selection and preliminary questions for research are due 10/14.* • Use of at least 5 sources, at least one of which is not on-line (book, periodical, interview, etc. are options) • Note cards for each source with basic bibliographic information for the source included (due 11/13/09) • Draft of report and note cards due 11/13/09 (I will pick these up in the student's homeroom) • Final report due 12/7/09 • Product due 12/10/09
<p>* We will work on topic selections and how to develop research questions in FROGS class. However, students may need to put in a little homework time prior to the due date to extend their research questions.</p>	

Research Sites available through HISD's Library Services Department

HISD's Library Services department offers many reference sources that are available to students and their families. You and your child may log on to the website shown below and enjoy some of the following resources:

Website	http://www.hisdlibraryservices.org/online_resources.htm
User name	houstonisd
Password	texans

- **ABC-Clio Schools** provides resources for research in American History, World Geography, and World History including articles, primary resources, and maps, all correlated with the curriculum.
- **Britannica** provides access to encyclopedias on elementary, middle school, and high school levels. Other available resources include a world atlas, Merriam-Webster dictionary, and workspace to take notes on your research. In the elementary encyclopedia there is an activity section for younger students in the Britannica Learning Zone.
- **Discovery Education** is a digital video-based learning resource from Discovery Education. Educators gain on-demand access to 50,000 content-specific segments from 5,000 full-length educational videos- including more than 1,000 new videos in subject areas including foreign language, secondary math, science, and language arts. This resource requires a unique login for each user. You may obtain a login kit from your librarian or your tech coordinator.
- **Nettrekker** organizes web sites around the K-12 curricula. All sites are evaluated for academic integrity and age appropriateness before they are considered. Users can search by grade level, subject directory, keyword, famous person, etc.