Cassingham Elementary Grade 2 Units of Inquiry 2015-2016

Revised: 5/18/15

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|  | Transdisciplinary Theme | **Topic** | **Dates** | **Central Idea, Concepts (*Key & Related*), & LoI** |
| **1** | Who We Are An inquiry into the nature of the self; beliefs and values; **personal, physical, mental, social & spiritual health**; human relationships including families, friends, communities and cultures; rights & responsibilities; what it means to be human.  **Special Guests/Field Trips/Activities:**  Slim Goodbody (in March)  Preschool Health Fair | Fit for Life | Aug. 12-Sept. 18  5.5 weeks | **Central Idea:**  Choices people make can change their personal health and environment  **Lines of Inquiry:**  -Daily habits and routines (keep you balanced) (responsibility)  -effect of personal choices on wellness (causation)  -reflecting upon ourselves and setting personal goals (reflection)  -interpersonal relationships (responsibility/reflection)  **Key Concepts:**  -responsibility, causation, reflection  **Related Concepts:**  -balance, nutrition, safety, disease, open-mindedness |
| **2** | Sharing the PlanetAn inquiry into rights and responsibilities in the struggle to share finite resources with other people and with other living things; communities and the relationships within and between them; access to equal opportunities; peace and conflict resolution. **Special Guests/Field Trips/Activities:**  Zoo | Animals and Environments | Sept. 21-Nov. 6  6.5 weeks | **Central Idea:**  Living things interact with their environment in order to survive.  **Lines of Inquiry:**  - ways living things function and interact with their physical environments (connection/causation)  - changing environments (change)  - How plants and animals adapt or respond to environmental conditions (causation)  **Key Concepts:**  -Change, causation, connection  **Related Concepts:**  -adaptation, extinction, cycle |
| **3** | How We Organize OurselvesAn inquiry into the interconnectedness of human-made systems and communities; the structure and function of organizations; societal decision-making; economic activities and their impact on humankind and the environment. **Special Guests/Field Trips/Activities:** | Citizenship and Economics | Nov. 9-Dec. 17  5.5 weeks | **Central Idea:**  Characteristics of an environment can influence organization.  **Lines of Inquiry:**  -goods and services (form)  -human and physical characteristics of an environment (causation)  -how resources are used (function)  -jobs and income (connection)  **Key Concepts:**  -Responsibility, connection, causation  **Related Concepts:**  -citizenship, economics, resources, mapping |
| **4** | Where We Are in Place & Time An inquiry into orientation in place & time; personal histories; homes & journeys; the discoveries, explorations and migrations of humankind; **the relationships between and the interconnectedness of individuals and civilizations, from local and global perspectives**. Special Guests/Field Trips/Activities: | Notable People | Jan. 4-Feb. 12  6 weeks | **Central Idea:**  Peoples’ actions have shaped the world in which we live.  **Lines of Inquiry:**  • Interconnectedness of people (connection)  •Time can be recorded and shown in different ways (function/form)  •Changes in technology (change)  **Key Concepts:**  Function/Form, Change, Connection  **Related Concepts:**  Notable, timelines, biographies |
| **5** | How We Express OurselvesAn inquiry into the ways in which we discover and express our ideas, feelings, nature, culture, beliefs and values; the ways in which we reflect on, extend and enjoy our creativity; our appreciation of the aesthetic. **Special Guests/Field Trips/Activities:**  Vets Memorial Field Trip – Grimm’s Fairy Tales  RL Stine Grant: Art, Music, Movement, Playwrite | Stories | Feb. 19-April 1  6 weeks | **Central Idea:**  Cultures can express their beliefs and values through stories and literary archetypes.  **Lines of Inquiry:**  - message, lesson or moral (determine in stories) *reflection*  - two or more versions of the same story (compare and contrast) *perspective*  - story structure (archetypes) *form*  **Key Concepts:**  -Perspective, form, reflection  **Related Concepts:**  -story elements, morals, culture, patterns |
| **6** | How the World Works An inquiry into the natural world and its laws; the interaction between the natural world (physical and biological) and human societies; **how humans use their understanding of scientific principles**; the impact of scientific and technological advances on society and on the environment.  **Special Guests/Field Trips/Activities:**  COSI | Forces and Motion/Weather | April 4-May 20  7 weeks | **Central Idea:**  People use patterns to predict changes in the natural world  **Lines of Inquiry:**  -contact forces (push, pull, friction)/non-contact forces (magnets, gravity) (function)  -cause/effect, predictable outcomes, patterns (causation)  -writing like a scientist (perspective)  **Key Concepts:**  function, causation, perspective  **Related Concepts:**  magnets, weather, force, energy, motion, prediction, cause/effect, patterns |