



**WOODRIDGE**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 68

## **Common Core Writing Newsletter**

### **Lab Reports and Science Books**

*There is a wonderful connection in this unit between writing and science. This writing unit will also strengthen students' reading skills because they will learn to read texts closely, studying techniques the authors have used and thinking about the reasons the authors made the choices they did.*

#### **About this Unit**

In the first set of lessons, students will be writing about a shared science topic. In the opening of this unit, children will conduct an entire forces-and-motion experiment, jotting and sketching as they do so, and then write a four-page lab report—their hypothesis on one page, procedures on another, results on a third, and conclusions on a fourth.

In the second set of lessons, the goal is to help students master the writing process they experienced in the previous set. Students will participate in scientific conversations and study mentor texts so that students can revisit and improve lab reports already in progress. By the end of these lessons, students will be able to design and conduct an experiment independently, writing lab reports as they progress through the work. They'll learn to write with topic-specific vocabulary and to elaborate as they write new lab reports and revise ones they have previously written.

In the last grouping of lessons, students will be writing an information book that teaches readers all about a topic that the writer knows well and that relates to the topic of the first part of the unit, forces and motion. Topics could include bicycling, skating, or skateboarding. Students will be supported extensively by their teacher during this process.

#### **Additional Information**

Students will continue to participate in a writer's workshop during a daily, dedicated writing time. The daily workshop is set up so that students will be presented with a mini-lesson and then be sent off to write as the teacher confers with students both individually and in small groups.

Attached to this newsletter are a grade level specific checklist and an example of proficient student writing for this unit's genre of writing. Please contact your student's teacher should you have any further questions.