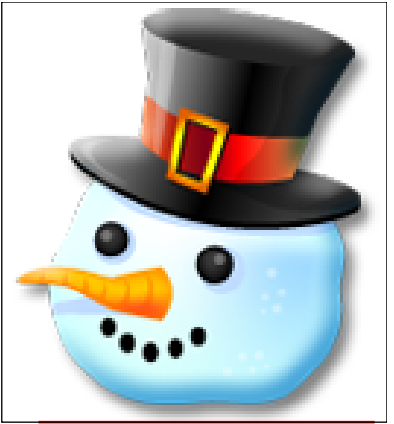


Mrs. M^oDonald's Intermediate Classroom

What a week!



Issue 17

January 9, 2008

Homework

Monday: Reading assignments will come home

Tuesday: Math practice

Wednesday: Write about The City of Ember. Tell me three important things that have happened in the story so far. BE SURE to make an opening statement, supportive details and a conclusion.

Thursday– Practice Spelling or Wordly Wise words for this week. Write them down and bring back to school on Friday.

Send in LEGACY INTERVIEWS BY FRIDAY.

This was a fantastic week. Alive with excitement for learning. We worked hard this week preparing for the parent night on Thursday. Thank you all for attending. In the past seven days, since we have returned from winter break, students have worked on Magnets and learned about the North and South poles of the magnets. They have learned about how magnetic fields form around the magnets and how like forces repel and opposite forces attract. They worked on identifying items such as iron, nickel and cobalt that attract magnets. The BOONSHOFT MUSEUM came out and brought many different kinds of magnets to explore. This special program is like an on-site field trip. A huge thanks to Mrs. Pangalangan for paying for this special program for us.

In addition, we had a presentation by DP&L on electrical safety. It was amazing. The linesmen came out and had a huge setup that showed what would happen if you touch a power line. They used a hot dog as an example and it was not pretty. There were plenty of sparks and they showed us several examples of the power of electricity.

We worked on the book City of Ember. In this book, the people live in a world that is illuminated by electric light, however, the generator is having more and more problems each day. Doon and Lina, the main characters, are searching for a way to make life better for the citizens of Ember. We are enjoying this story and working at the same time on making predictions, identifying character traits, looking for incidents of foreshadowing, identifying the setting, the plot, and rising action. There are groans each time a chapter ends and requests to hear more. Several students have asked if we can act out the story. It is a wonderful book. The descriptions of the setting and depth of the descriptions of the characters makes me wonder how this group will feel in October when the movie comes out. I do not think any director will be able to create a movie as good as what their imaginations have created. I STRONGLY suggest you read this wonderful book.

MATH-Last week we reviewed math skills and took another timed test. Half of the class increased their scores on the five minute timed test over their score in December. Increases are rewarded with a small piece of candy. Keep practicing these multiplication facts at home.

This week we will continue to work on Singapore math concepts. Each group will be finishing a review of prior topics. Look for Math books to come home this week.

Writing-We will continue to work on writing compound and complex sentences. Students have made great strides this year in their writing skills. We started this year with the concept of restating the question in the form of a sentence and then supporting our idea with details. Writings have greatly improved. We are working on making complex sentences and adding details.

The Legacy Project Interviews will be the next main writing assignment. We will be working on these in class. Please send in all interview work by this Friday. Students also will need 5-7 photos either scanned to a CD or emailed to me...if you cannot scan them yourself, I can do this before school.

On Thursday, we completed our work on our electrical experiments. Students did a wonderful job of completing these assignments **ON THEIR OWN**.

I was always amazed at the number of parents that felt compelled to "help" their children on their projects. **I always wanted to too!!** But, this week students worked really hard in groups, (not always without conflict, but they ultimately cooperated!) and they made the Electrical Wand Shoebox Experiments. They decided on a theme for the box, they bent the copper wires, they decorated the paper coverings on the boxes and then tested them out. I love the project-based learning where the project is completed at school, I bet quite a few of you do too!

UPCOMING UNIT- State Projects and Ohio History.

Slide show on Electricity will be posted on the website this week. Tomorrow will be busy with The Academy Open House.