

Mrs. MacDonald's Intermediate Classroom

Writing



Issue 28

April 13, 2008

This week in Language Arts, we continued to work on poetry, but also worked on WRITING PROMPTS. These came home in the Friday folders and several students were quite stressed out over how their parents may react to the points they received.

The points were given according to how the students followed the directions of the writing prompt. If it asked for three reasons with explanations, then points were given for following that direction. The points for these writing prompts are given for me to track the progress of the writing skill.

We worked quite hard in the beginning of the year on developing a good opening. Great progress was made on restating the question in an interesting way. This skill has to continue to be applied to writing. Many students missed points for the opening because they did not somehow state what they were writing about.

We went over the graded writing prompts on Friday and discussed the areas of weakness and strength. We talked about how to improve the writings and the importance of following the directions that were given.

This is a skill we will continue to work on to develop strong writers.

In poetry this week, students worked on Color Poems, Concrete Poems and Creature Alliterations. They are doing a fantastic job on these and have created some wonderful work samples.

Poetry journals came home on Wednesday. Thank you for helping your child with the editing of the poems. One student told me- "My mom didn't finish it yet", ... my intention for this to be homework is not for parents to be editing ALONE, but for the students to be looking over their work and asking for help on finding the spelling errors.

We will be reviewing WORDLY WISE WORDS and work this week, no new unit or Friday test.

Homework:

Monday: Reading Assignment

Tuesday: Math Practice

Wednesday: Ohio History work

Thursday: Poetry Journals update

Important Dates:

Friday April 18th is early dismissal for students.

You can schedule an IOWA Test result conference if you would like.

Get ready for the zoo trip.

Tuesday April 22nd—overnight at the zoo.

Meet back at school at 5:00.

Math

This week students worked on several different math skills. We are working on some money skills and decimals. We are working on multiplication and division skills, angles and ordering decimals.

We worked on some "timed work" - again this is just addition, subtraction, multiplication and division practice that is given a reasonable amount of time to show what you can accomplish. Practice is needed to improve speed. Please continue to practice basic math facts at home.

Social Studies

We worked on Ohio history and learned more about some famous people from Ohio and a few from Dayton, Ohio: Wilbur and Orville Wright and Charles Kettering.

- We learned about the inventions of Charles Kettering, including the electric cash register, the electric auto ignition, the automobile lighting system, safety glass, and portable electric generator JUST TO NAME A FEW!
- We learned about how he began work at NCR and then started a company called Dayton Engineering Laboratories Company or better known as DELCO- some students were familiar with that because of Delco fields.
- He invented a compound called FREON and is believed to have had the first air conditioned house in America.

We learned about Thomas Edison, also a famous Ohioan. He invented the light bulb, the phonograph, the motion picture and held over 1,000 patents. It is amazing to me how someone's brain can work that way!

We learned about the canal systems and how the railroad changed how goods and people could be transported.

Science-

This week we will be learning more about life cycle of animals and animal adaptations as we prepare for our trip down to the Cincinnati Zoo.

We will look for the similarities and differences of the life cycles of plants and animals.



MATH PRACTICE ON THE DRY ERASE BOARD



**Congratulations to Julia Popson—
speed and accuracy winner!!!!**