

# Mrs. MacDonald's Intermediate Classroom



## Historical Election

Issue 12

This week was an interesting week in American History. I am glad that we had the chance to have the newspaper to look over the results of the election together. We will be able to use them in the coming weeks as we learn about the presidential transition.

We are learning about the powers of government and how we first created the United States of America. This coming week we will have the chance to explore what happened in 1776 when the Declaration of Independence was adopted.

We will learn about the first president, learn about how the VP was whoever got second place in the election, and learn about the struggles that the colonists had in establishing our Nation.

Everyone is invited to our classroom on Friday to participate in

### Important Dates

- Friday—Spotlight on the classroom at 2:30, Students may dress like a colonial person if they wish.
- Pie Sales are going on now . Orders will be taken until November 11th
- Orienteering at Grant Park on November 21st parent volunteers are needed. Please let me know if you would be able to lead a group around the park.



“Spotlight on the Classroom”. At 2:30, students will share with visitors, what we have been working on in the classroom.

## Language Arts

This week we worked on expository writing. Expository writing is used to explain, describe or inform. Students were given an assignment about the early colonies to explain how creativity and ingenuity played a role in the success of the colonies.

They also had a homework assignment on Monday to write about how the candidates might feel before the election. (Several asked if they could write about each candidate, and one got into her car and said "I can't wait to do my homework tonight!") These writings were very entertaining. Students did a great job working on these writings.

We are working at school on taking more CARE with work. Students must use the resources around them to spell correctly. Practice makes perfect, but practicing incorrect spelling reinforces this bad habit.

This goes along with my "target receipt" homework problem. I want the students to be proud of the work they do and the work they hand in. I do not want them to think that putting forth half effort on school work is acceptable to me.

Nobody actually sent in homework on a Target receipt, but the quality of work and the manner in which it was presented to me kept going downhill and I will no longer accept work that is not the best effort. Handwriting should be neat, spelling should be checked over by the student, and writing on the back of a hamburger wrapper is not acceptable. Lined paper is available in the classroom and each student is reminded before they leave school to take a sheet if they need it. Please support me on this... it is setting the foundation for responsible future adults.

## Math

This week we reviewed place value and discussed ways to rename

numbers. We worked on measurement and decimals. We looked at inches, feet, yards, meters, centimeters, millimeters, and kilometers. We discussed how the Metric system is an easier conversion system than the US Customary measurements. We learned how to find volume by multiplying length and width and height. We learned how a waterpark uses math to help calculate the amount of water used and the length of slides as well as the placement of each slide to maximize use of the property.

We played a math game that gave choices for numbers. This game came home on Wednesday night. It promotes number awareness.

We will continue to work on multiplication skills this week. Keep practicing math facts to develop fact fluency.

## Social Studies

This week we learned more about the election process and voted on a cover for the upcoming school cookbook. We read about the presidents and gathered information about them. We tracked the election results and followed the impact of the electoral college. We will continue to learn more about government and the transition of the presidential office.

This week we will be learning more about how the colonists united against English rule. We will be exploring the French and Indian War, Taxation without Representation, the Boston Tea Party, The First Continental Congress, Patrick Henry's inspirational speech, Paul Revere's famous ride, the battles of Lexington and Concord, the Second Continental Congress, the Declaration of Independence and Americans starting over!

We will be participating in colonial activities and on Friday, students MAY dress in colonial clothes if they wish. They asked if they could, they can, but they do NOT have to. Please do not go to any expense to do this. Look around the house, sweatpants and tube socks make a 21st Century boy look colonial... and girls can wear a dress with an apron (does anyone have an apron anymore???) . I want it to be fun, but not a hassle. We will be making caps for the girls and hats for the boys during the week.

Friday at 2:30 we invite all parents to come to school to see Spotlight on the Classroom. If you are available, students will be showing their work and what we have accomplished this week as part of our immersion week. Immersion week allows us the freedom to explore a topic in more detail.

It should be a great week.

## Homework for the Week

**Monday:** Tea Parties can be fun, tell me about the Boston Tea Party.

**Tuesday:** Wordly Wise Unit 3. Choose seven words and compose a paragraph using those words.

**Wednesday:** Read assigned story

**Thursday:** Study wordly wise words definition test will be given on Friday. Review the word meanings, be able to define them in your own words. (This may require parent help.)