

Mrs. MacDonald's Intermediate Classroom



Gratitude

Issue 14
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Important Dates

- No school on Wed, Thurs. or Fri– Happy Thanksgiving Break

We had a great week. Here are some of the things we did last week.

- We reviewed 2-digit multiplication skills and did some correction on errors in this process.
- We reviewed multiplication facts and discussed how important it is to have fluency of facts-addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts– in order to proceed to the next skill set in math. (To do long division, students must be proficient in multiplying, and subtracting in order to obtain the correct answer.)
- We worked on range and mode using the newspaper. Students needed to find the mode from the weather section of the newspaper. They could then find other information in the sport section to analyze the range and mode. The range is the spread from the smallest number in a series to the largest number in the series. The mode, if there is one, is the number found Most Often. I try to remind students that the first two letters in the word MODE are MO for Most Often.
- We worked on learning more about our word of the month– Gratitude. I have talked to many students recently that have said “my mom is late.” I have suggested to these students that instead they greet their parent with “thank you for picking me up from school” We have been talking about focusing on the positive and being grateful for the things that we have, the things others do for us, and the things we are able to do.
- We used the newspaper this week to work on nouns, verbs, and adjectives. Several students had to do their work over. We have been working on using resources around us to spell correctly. Students that worked on their pamphlets and wrote on the cover Adgetives instead of taking the time and care to write Adjectives needed to re-do their work. “Copy Work” for some students is becoming an increasing problem. This is more of a care in work issue. I am cracking down and students know that this needs more of their attention. There will not be homework this week, but this too needs to be taken seriously by students. It is work that is required of them. It is not a huge amount of work, and I understand that there may be incidents that prevent work from being completed, but this should not be a habit to skip homework.
- We finished our book Fighting Ground by Avi. This was a great story about a 13 year old boy that joined in the fighting of the Revolutionary War. It was not what he expected. It gave the class a chance to hear what it would have been like from the boys perspective. Hearing his excitement, fears and anxieties.
- We are now beginning a new book, The Diamond of Darkhold. This is the sequel to the People of Sparks.
- Students were assigned new books for literature circles last Monday. I could go broke trying to keep up with this class. Several of the students completed 4 of the 5 books last week. I was thinking we would rotate through these books for the next 5 weeks, not five days. We will continue working in these books and supplement the thirst for good books with another run to the library. PLEASE CHECK at HOME– four of the historical fiction books from the library have not been returned.

Elements

We began our study of atoms, elements, and matter. Students will be doing research on an element... Well sort of... they will be doing this research in the form of an adoption of the element. They already began their research and on Friday when I asked them where you could find their element, they all knew massive amounts of information about their elements without notes in front of them. I am glad that they are showing such strong interest in this topic. We will be working on chemical and physical changes on Monday and Tuesday. This is a fun topic to teach and there are many opportunities for us to explore science, make predictions and follow through on experiments. We will be discussing the scientific method and talk about the Science Fair we will be having in April.

Academy Service Project

Each classroom at the Academy is adopting a family from Springboro for the holiday season. These families need our help. Our class has been assigned a family with an 11 year old boy. The mom and dad have asked for one pair of pants each, and a shirt, the boy would like markers, pencils, drawing paper and some race cars. I feel blessed to think that I have never had to think about getting myself or my children pants when we needed them or wanted them. I am grateful for this.

Each student on Friday signed up to help bring in either money for part of the pants, or for one of these items. Students do not have to participate. If you do not wish to participate, just send this back to school this week.

This will be a tough holiday season for many people.

This week will go by quickly. There will not be any homework.

I hope that everyone has a peaceful Thanksgiving Break.