

Mrs. MacDonald's Intermediate Classroom



Quick Week

Issue 15
November 25, 2008

Important Dates

- This week we did many math activities using the Sunday newspaper ads. Students were divided into teams. Their challenge was to meet their target amount of money by purchasing products in the newspaper ads. First the team picked a person to spend their money on, (teams chose a mom, a dad, a teen and a child). They then had to choose appropriate gifts for that person. The team was dealt three cards, these were randomly placed in an order... they then became the "budget" for spending. So- a 6, 3 and Jack became \$630 for the targeted amount.
- Groups could not go over the amount of money, but needed to come closest to that number to win. We discussed that going over would be similar to standing at the register with \$630 and needing to pay \$670.
- The groups did a fantastic job. Some of the lessons learned were :
- If the ad said \$230 computer after a mail in rebate for \$120... you need to come up with the \$350 at the register... it will come back to you in the mail 6-8 weeks later if you provide everything they ask for! This was a bit of a budget breaker.
- We also learned that 15% off coupons were great!!! But you cannot use a 15% Michaels coupon at Office Depot. (However, I applaud the use of the 15%off coupon!!)
- The groups all did a great job!
- On Tuesday we did it again, except this time it was with grocery ads. Each team was dealt five cards. This time the number had a decimal ... 6966 would have been \$ 69.66 and then groups rounded to the nearest dollar. They needed to purchase dinner for at least four. One group decided on a group of six, the other group planned for a group of 14.
- The group of six somehow only purchased 5 rolls to accompany their Thanksgiving dinner, I am not sure how that will work out. They also purchased \$13 worth of turkey, but \$15 worth of beer. They stayed in budget, but I am not too sure how their dinner is going to go.
- The other group for 14 bought a \$29.99 meal package at Meijer that had the whole works. They also purchased a bargain 10lbs bag of potatoes to add to their meal for \$2.95 and some kid drinks and pop. It was a fun way to practice rounding, addition, multiplication and problem solving. We will continue working with ads in the coming weeks. Pointing out the differences in prices at various stores, the hidden true values (\$2.95 with a \$10 purchase), and how to take the percentage off a price easily in 10-20-30% increments.
- We also worked on problem solving with 100's charts. Now that we have tried these at school, some sample problems will be sent home in the coming weeks for homework.

ASK YOUR CHILD ABOUT THE PHYSICAL CHANGE WE OBSERVED IN WHIPPING CREAM and ABOUT THE DIAMOND OF DARKHOLD.

Legacy Project

I know many of you will be getting together with family over the coming weeks. I hope this may give you the opportunity to start the Legacy Project. The Legacy Project is a chance for your child to interview a person that is important to them. I encourage you to try and make this a person that is 2 generations older. Someone that can share what it was like to grow up in a world much different from the world that they are growing up in. Last year, one of the grandparents that was interviewed, shared that he had not had a "shower" until he was in college. His home did not have a shower.. It only had a tub.

The benefits of interviewing a grandparent and writing about their life are HUGE. They can learn so much more about this person, you can learn so much more about them too.

I understand that not all children have a grandparent left to interview (even more reason for those that do to interview their grandparent!!!) so please help them choose someone important in their life that they want to learn more about.

This will be the third year that I am doing this project. The first year I was amazed at how much the kids learned about this person... how much pride they took in the book they created, and how much they treasured these books. Last year, I had a whole new perspective on the project. My parents came down and watched the class present the books to their grandparents... my parents talked all weekend about how special it was for the grandparents to get these books. They saw the project through different eyes than I did. It was enlightening to me how these books could also be a sense of pride for the recipient.

So, please help your child give thoughtful consideration to the person they would like to interview for this project. They will need to ask them questions, the questions are attached to this email. They will need to get 10-12 pictures of this person. Pictures of all stages of their life make the book more interesting. Pictures can be sent in, but I STRONGLY PREFER FOR THEM TO BE GIVEN TO ME ON DISK!!! If you can scan them, this would be very helpful. If you cannot scan them, maybe someone can help scan them for me at school to save huge chunks of time. Last year, only three families gave them to me on disk.

Students can begin their interviews ... there will be due dates for each part of the assignment. The first due date will be January. All interviews must be complete by January 5th so that writing can begin. Books will be ordered in March and we will have a "legacy day" in April.

I hope you enjoy this project! Feel free to let me know if you have any questions.