

# Mrs. MacDonald's Intermediate Classroom



## Busy Week!

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The weeks are passing by so quickly– with no slowing down in the near future. This past week we worked on the following:

- Math timed multiplication tests. We tested fluency of math facts in two ways, a 5 second per problem basic fact sheet. Scores are showing steady improvements. Then we practiced with a timed sheet that involved multiplying a one-digit number by a three-digit number. Scores plummeted. This is a test of applying the basic multiplication skills to higher level math skills. We will be working on improving this application of multiplication skills. The foundation of basic facts is vital to success in these future math skills.
- We worked on converting fractions to a decimal, and adding decimals.
- We worked on fractions and making equivalent fractions and reducing fractions. In order to reduce fractions, students must be fluent in basic math facts.
- In language arts we worked on identifying when we need to use capital letters. We worked on the correct use of apostrophes and when and how to use quotation marks.
- We worked on dictionary skills and using guide words.
- We wrote about "uniqueness" and each student wrote about how they are unique like a snowflake. Students created snowflakes out of 6-pack rings and they are suspended from our ceiling.
- We worked with the periodic table of elements, and YES THERE ARE ELEMENTS called Einsteinium, (99) and Californium, (98).
- We learned more about matter and the states of matter.
- We filled our bucket with good deeds and the students earned a Pajama Day. They really seemed to enjoy this.
- The class worked cooperatively with the PM kindergarten class. They instructed them on how to make a poinsettia flower. They did a great job being the teachers to the younger students. They helped them follow directions, cut and construct a flower. They are building strong bonds with the younger class and the younger students really look up to them.
- We have been plagued by an epidemic of "INTERRUPTIONS" !!!! Students can't seem to wait their turn and have been constantly interrupting me and each other. I mentioned, jokingly, that I needed a nerf gun to shoot the offenders. Julia was kind enough to bring one the following day. We have had fewer interruptions and several laughs, however, Hannah told me that if I get caught with it I will be out of a job and end up being a taxi driver....so I may have to retire it.
- Nic and Trev combined their Mustang Money to purchase a Bionicles Day. They brought in their Bionicles to share and Nic told the story of the Bionicles. He did a great job explaining their stories. I just thought they were like lego people??? I was wrong.

### Important Dates

- Holiday Shop and Festival at MIM Saturday December 13 11-2
- Field trip to Boonshoft on Tuesday, December 16th
- Sneak Peak at the Seussical– December 19th at 1:30 official performance will be Jan 31st.

# Legacy Project

Legacy Project– students should choose who they are doing their project on and turn in the name this week. Questions are posted on my website under Legacy Project.

Think about a holiday ornament or craft that you do at home. This week we will be working on an expository piece about “How to Make \_\_\_\_\_” You need to write the directions on how to do this holiday craft, present your directions to the class and show them what you know how to make. (Bring a sample of your creation.)

It can be as simple as a holiday friendship chain with construction paper or as complex as a gingerbread house. The assignment is to write clear directions for the project. Tell the materials that are needed and the steps that you take to make this project.

Presentations will be done on Friday, or sooner if you are ready.

I plan to compile these ideas into a class book.

Homework for the week:

Monday: we will brainstorm at school about the Expository writing. Homework is to write down the topic for your expository writing if you haven't done so already at school. (I know that this will be harder for some!)

Tuesday: Practice spelling—write 10 sentences using spelling words. Double Mustang Money for cursive

Wednesday: Math practice

Thursday: Study for spelling test

This week the spelling words will be ing and ed words. Practice writing them in cursive.

We will continue to work on fractions and decimals, matter, atoms and elements.

rising	raced
traced	dimmed
stripped	spinning
slammed	escaped
dancing	changing
striped	breathing
winning	quizzed
snapping	dared
bragging	skipped
handled	hitting
dripped	spotted
begged	