

Mrs. MacDonald's Intermediate Classroom



Simple Machines

Issue 19
January 11, 2009

Important Dates

- January 19th—No school MLK Day
- Cookbook orders and recipes due by January 23rd
- Open House January 25th

The class worked very hard last week preparing for the "Simple Machine" presentation on Thursday evening. Students learned about Newton's Laws of Motion and the SIX SIMPLE MACHINES. They presented examples of these simple machines and discussed how they make work easier. I was very proud of their work—especially what they were capable of accomplishing in four days.

On Monday, students were given a pre-test on Simple Machines. Most scores were low— then on Friday, students were given a follow-up test. Scores showed strong improvement! These tests were in the Friday take home folder.

This week we will continue with forces and motion.

We will resume our studies of Ohio History this week. Students will be learning about the Battle at Fallen Timbers and create timelines that involve Ohio's History.

We will have spelling this week—list 17 on my website. These words are words where the y changes to i when the ending is added.

In math last week, we worked on coordinates. Most students grasped this concept easily for positive numbers on the x and y axis. However, many were confused once negative numbers were introduced. We practiced longer than I anticipated, and will continue to work on this concept this week. For additional practice at home try these websites:

<http://www.funbrain.com/co/index.html>

<http://www.oswego.org/ocsd-web/games/BillyBug/bugcoord.html>

or for a game with more difficulty try the one below

http://www.shodor.org/interactivate/activities/mazegame/?version=1.6.0_06&browser=MSIE&vendor=Sun_Microsystems_Inc

As we worked on the coordinates, we played these games together. The games reinforce the skill and often times, when the students "THINK ALOUD" their choices, I hear someone say... Oh, I get it now. That really helps.

Legacy Project

This week we will be working on the Legacy Project introductions. If you have NOT completed the interview of the person for the Legacy Project, there is still time, but I am hoping that everyone has talked to the legacy person and has an interesting story, or something that they learned about the person. We will turn these facts into an opening. Alexa Fote was so excited to start that she created two introductions last week during her recess time. They were both fantastic!!!! After conferencing about them, we decided to use one for the opening and one for the closing. We will be working together this week to create strong opening paragraphs that lead the reader to want to know more.

(Photographs can be sent in to school at any time. Students will be keeping all Legacy work in a folder in their cubby. If you have photos on a disk, they can be sent to school at any time and I will upload those to the website. If you need your photos to be converted to a jpeg format, then please send them in an envelope to school and I will scan and save them. My hope is to have as many as possible on disk... it saves me the time of putting them on a disk...any CVS or Wal-green Photo can help you scan and save photos.)

Reading/Language Arts

This week in reading, students have been assigned either The Gypsy Game or Hatchet. We will be having book discussions on these two books. Last week, books came home and students were to begin reading them. This week we will work on details of the stories.

Students are also listening to a new book, DIVE- The Discovery. It has given us the chance to discuss the different types of writing styles. This book takes place in current time, but flashes back to 1668, to an event that will have an impact on the present-day characters. It is a different sort of style. Some like it, some don't.

We will compare this book to other books read in class.

We continue to work in our Daily Edit book. Each morning we work on these then correct them together to see and learn from our mistakes. There have been many improvements in the past few weeks. These will come home this week for you to see.

Math

We worked on coordinates on a grid this week. We reviewed how to find the speed given distance and time. We will continue to reinforce negative numbers this week and learn more about how to estimate distance on a map using a map scale.

History

We will continue to learn about the history of our state. We will explore information about past inaugurations and learn more about the upcoming inauguration.

Spelling words:

tiniest	hobbies	copied	countries	pitied	easier
laziest	families	spied	happiest	ladies	friendlier
studied	busier	breezier	prettiest	noisier	healthier
butterflies	funniest	stories	heaviest		

Homework for the week of January 12th

Monday:	Practice Spelling words- write each word in cursive and make a sentence for ten of them. Be sure to use lined paper. Turn in on Tuesday for MUSTANG MONEY
Tuesday:	Read assigned book—make a list of the main characters, setting, and events of the story.
Wednesday:	Practice math facts- addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.
Thursday:	Practice for spelling test. Bring home Daily Edit. Double Mustang Money for those that get a parent signature on the Friday graphing section.

Please be sure to be included in the cookbook. I am not a huge fan of cooking, but I love these kinds of cookbooks- where everyone gives their favorite recipes. You know that they are tried and tested recipes ...ask your children what their favorite meals or desserts are and include that recipe, too.

Time is running out, look over your recipes and send in your favorites by next week.

