

THE ACADEMY

Mrs. MacDonald's Intermediate Class

Newsletter 25

March 7, 2009

Here is what we have been up to this week:

- Students reviewed FACTORS and MULTIPLES and related this skill to fractions and creating equivalent fractions.
- We discussed how factors include all the facts that make up that number ($12 = 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 12$)
- We discussed how multiples = the number multiplied by a whole number (multiples of 12 = 12, 24, 36) we then found common multiples of two numbers and the lowest common multiple or LCM which can be used for making equivalent fractions. We worked on practice sheets for math facts and reviewed the skills of borrowing. I am disappointed that all students can tell me when they need to use this skill of renaming a number, or borrowing from the number to subtract, but still quite a few are not consistently applying this skill. $21 - 19 = 2$ IT DOES NOT EQUAL 18 because you want to reverse subtract the one from the nine in the ones place!!!! They know, they say "BIGGER ON THE BOTTOM- BORROW".... Now we just need to apply this skill.
- We are reading the book eggs by Jerry Spinelli. He is a wonderful author. His writing is rich in similes and metaphors. We have been using his writing as an example of how to create a vivid description or painting a picture with words. Students were asked this week to write a persuasive writing. They could choose whatever they wanted to write about, but they needed to convince me of something. They tried to convince me to skydive, dye my hair red, get a class pet, buy more candy for the deprived students in my class, and even join the army. Writings were to have vivid details, use appositives, similes or metaphors, compound sentences and include topic sentence, supportive details, and a strong conclusion. There were some very good writings.
- We began our study of the Human Body. Students are working on taking notes in their notebook and then using this information for "Open Notebook Quizzes." This is working on test taking skills, note taking skills, and paying attention to details. We will continue developing this skill as we learn about the systems of the body.



March 2009

Important Dates

- IOWA Basic Skills testing the week of March 9th—eat a healthy breakfast and get plenty of rest.
- Gala on March 14th—think about bidding on our classroom basket... a rug we braided during our colonial study, matching pillows, a blanket and special photograph. Or— bid on dinner and a movie at my house for your child and three friends. This year it was hosted on Halloween and it was a haunting good time!
- Sweet Dreams Pillow also up for bid
- I need to recruit some students for the Spring Fling on March 21st, at Springboro High School. The Academy will be doing a display of the Simple Machine experiments— anyone interested in presenting their experiment and represent the school, just let me know.

This Week - March 9-13

- We will be taking the IOWA BASIC SKILLS TEST this week. We will be testing in the mornings and will have two 30 minute sessions each day. It is very important that your child arrive at school on time and have a healthy breakfast. We reviewed "TEST-TAKING" strategies this week. We discussed the need to carefully read the questions and carefully choose an answer. I know the students will do very well on these tests.
- We will work on spelling words that contain soft g and hard g sounds and soft c and hard c sounds. These words will be used in the classroom and used in our writings.
- In the afternoon, we will have 30 minutes of D.E.A.R. time (Drop Everything And Read) We will be working toward a school-wide goal of 10,000 minutes of reading. If we reach this goal we will have a Wacky Wednesday the third week of March.

Homework for the week:

Monday– Tuesday—Wednesday = Choice Homework.

Go on my website for Human Body games, practice math facts, write a funny story, practice cursive writing, use this week's spelling words in a story... write another persuasive writing...it's your choice!

glance	palace
judge	bandage
damage	once
package	average
twice	message
stage	bridge
carriage	chance
since	notice
practice	ridge
marriage	
baggage	
office	

Thursday: Study these words for a quick spell check on Friday.

Please be sure to get to bed early, eat a good breakfast, and arrive at school on time. Bring a good book to read for DEAR time or use one of mine.... It should be a great week.