

Mrs. MacDonald's Intermediate Classroom



A Brief Newsletter

Issue 8

October 11, 2008

Important Dates

- ☺ City of Ember on Tuesday at 12:10 Please wear Red field trip polo!!!
- ☺ Conferences on October 17th—no school
- ☺ October 17th, Benefit for Johnny Moore to be held at Southbrook Church from 6-9. Invite your friends!!

This will be a brief newsletter because most of my weekend is being spent preparing to meet with you on Friday for conferences. I am reviewing your preconference forms, and going over the students' work. We will be discussing work samples, areas of strength and areas that we can work together to improve upon. Thank you for completing the preconference form. This helps me know areas that you want to discuss. (Remember the child that we share does not always react the same to situations at school as they do at home.) I look forward to meeting with all of you this week.

A reminder—Tuesday, we will be going to see the City Of Ember at the Showcase Cinema South. If you have not turned in your permission slip yet, please do so by Monday.

This past week in review:

- Reading: Students chose a historical fiction book that they are reading independently. We are meeting in the classroom to discuss the order of events, the time period, the events that are presented that we may have already discussed in class, and the information that is being presented in the given story. Students are doing a great job. There were many books to choose from and several students are already on a second book. As these books are read, summaries are to be written about the chapters, or journal entries. The setting is to be noted. Important events and characters are to be written about. These books are all stories that take place in the time period we are studying for the next six weeks.
- In spelling we reviewed long o and short o words.
- In language arts we worked on writing about surprises—the advantages and disadvantages. We are also gathering information and writing about the 13 original colonies. This research paper will be written at school and presented to the class later this week. Everyone will take notes on the presentations and gather useful information about the New England Colonies, the Middle Colonies and the Southern Colonies. We will discuss the similarities and differences. Trev will also be presenting about Roanoke, the Lost Colony, and Ellie will tell us about Jamestown, the first English Settlement. (THIRTEEN COLONIES, but FIFTEEN STUDENTS)
- In Social Studies we are working on map skills and identify the location of the 13 colonies and 2 early settlements.
- In math we continue to reinforce basic fundamental skills of addition, subtraction, and regrouping. We reviewed perfect squares and square roots. We worked on symmetry, angles and coordinates.

Rainforest Video

The video we created about the Rainforest has been placed in your child's folder on the network. If you would like a CD copy of this video, just send me a note.

Students were assigned a topic—like why should we save the rainforest? They were required to change the question into a statement and support their statement with details. The result is this video. I hope you enjoy it and see how much they have learned about the rainforest.

We are moving on now to early American History. We will be working on another class video with this topic!!

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Homework for the week:

Monday: Write 12 of the spelling words in sentences... use them correctly please.

Tuesday: Reading—Historical Fiction—read for at least 20 minutes and then write about what you read in your log.

Wednesday: Study spelling words for test.... These words will be expected to be used correctly in written work!