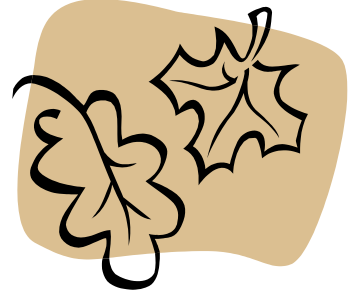


Mrs. MacDonald's Intermediate Classroom



Immersion Week

Issue 6
September 28, 2008

Important Dates

© October 2nd, Field
Trip to see IMAX
MOVIE AMAZON

This week went by very quickly. Everyone did a great job getting back into the routine of things after such an odd week last week.

This week too will go by very quickly.

- We will be having our first Immersion Week.
- We will be finishing up our studies of the RAINFOREST.
- We will go to the IMAX theater on Thursday morning to see the movie AMAZON.

Thank you all for returning your permission slips on time. This really helps me with the organization of the trip.

During our Immersion Week, we will be covering the remaining topics of the Rainforest. We have learned about the layers of the rainforest, discussed the water cycle, explored the products that come from the Rainforest including cacao beans—chocolate, coffee beans, avocados, plantains, mangos, papayas, pineapples, spices, teas, rubber, chicle, and medicines. We discussed the impact that losing the rainforest would have on our lives. We will finalize our studies this week and finish work on our lap-books. Students will use these to write a summary of what they have learned about the rainforest in the past 6 weeks.

Products from the rainforest —————>



Mathematics

This week in math we graphed the number of days that students were without power. These were placed in student binders. Everyone did a great job gathering the data and putting it into the graph.

We reviewed angles, lines, rays and segments. We used protractors to create angles. We found examples of these angles and lines around the classroom.

We continue to work on math facts, math skills and math concepts. We are learning these skills and applying them to problem solving situations.

This week in math we will be working on how parenthesis are used in math and the order of operations.

Social Studies

This week, again, our read aloud Blood on the River James Town 1607 reinforced our learning about the early settlement of Jamestown.

In the book, they arrived in James Town and began to build their settlements. Captain John Smith was worried that the Native Americans, bringing gift baskets of food to the camp, seemed to be sizing up the number of men, the number of guns, and the placement of the tents. He wanted to build a palisade around their camp. Master Wainsfield disagreed and in the end, John Smith was right. The reason the book is titled as it is became apparent. The Native Americans attacked the campsite in the middle of the night with their bows and arrows. Only one person was lost... it was James, a young boy that ran from his tent out of fear and tried to get to the ship.

We had a discussion of how the men from the Virginia Company did not listen to the instincts of Captain John Smith.

I like this book because it gives students a young man's perspective of this historical time and presents historical events in a memorable way.

We reviewed longitude, latitude, and identified **coordinates** on a map.

Language Arts

This week in language arts we learned about RUN ON SENTENCE and determined ways to eliminate this from our writing.

We worked on a narrative writing. Students were given a rubric with a few guidelines on what was needed. The writing was to be about CHANGE. It could be something that changed in your life, something that caused a change, or changes over time.

For anyone that was stumped about what to write about– I suggested they write about the changes that occurred due to the storm that hit our area. (By the way, no one wrote about that.)

The writing had to have an opening statement, it had to have supportive details about that opening statement and it needed to have a clear conclusion. This needed to be paragraphs about change not just simple sentences. Some writings were great, some were great-but had nothing to do with the topic, some were good and a few were weak.

This year we will be working hard on writing skills. (IT IS LIKE PULLING TEETH!) One of the key components though is sticking to the topic. If the topic is change, the opening needed to inform the reader of that and the conclusion will need to somehow restate that idea. We will get there! I have already seen strong improvement over the past few weeks.

Homework for the week:

Monday: Wordly Wise words this week. Review words and definitions Unit !

Tuesday: Free Night– look for products in your home that may have come from something in the rainforest

Wednesday: Math Practice

Thursday: Study Unit 2 in your book for wordly wise. Study the meaning of the words.