

KEEPING IN TOUCH

January 9, 2012



Week in Review

MS. MCTIGHE'S CLASSES

Reading

This week we will be beginning our work with the College of William and Mary's unit on change. In fourth grade our books are titled, *Literary Reflections*. This is a new, updated version this year with changes that should be more challenging for our AT students. They will have a workbook this year, and we will be exploring many different examples of quality literature. Our core novel will be *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett. We'll have six choice novels for small group work. We'll be studying short stories, folktales, and poetry from authors like Emily Dickson, Langston Hughes, and Martin Espada. It will be exciting to see what students will learn from this challenging unit. A reading response for *Howliday Inn* will be due **Thursday, 1-12**. We have a stem test on **Friday, 1-13**, on lists #1-#4. There is a non-fiction real life mystery due on **Thursday, 1-19**, with a worksheet and one prompt.

Math

We began a unit on geometry where we are working on lines, angles, and shapes. We will do a little work on measuring angles in class (not for homework). We'll also learn about polygons, triangles, and quadrilaterals. We will have a quiz on this unit on **Thursday, 1-12**. We did a review of writing invoices for the School Store today and then took a short quiz. Our class did a wonderful job on the School Store! Students were professional, polite, and great store keepers. I was very proud of the job they did! Basic Facts This Week: x9.

This Week at a Glance

Science...
Machines and Motion

Social Studies...
Midwest Region

In the Spotlight...
Jimmy L. and Bich-Yen P.

Writing... Model Early Life Paragraph
Expository Writing and Poetry

Important Dates...
Tues., 1-12: Midterm Progress Reports Sent Home
Wed., 1-11: Famous Person Introduction Due
Thurs., 1-12: Bullying Assembly, 2:00
Mon., 1-16: NO SCHOOL-Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday

Notes:

We will be working on modeling our famous person early life paragraphs this week using Lincoln as our model. This paragraph will be due the **next Wednesday, 1-18**, for each student's famous person.
If you are interested in having your child in the Great Junior Books Program, please send in the form by **Fri., 1-13**.

MRS. STEFANI'S CLASSES

Reading

We are back to a regular schedule this week now that the mystery unit has concluded. In shared reading we are building an awareness of making inferences as the students hear and read a series of poems. To help with this, they will use a double-entry journal to record their thinking. We will also try to carry the skill of making inferences over to what the kids read in guided reading and independent reading this week. Logs and spelling test will be collected and given on Friday!

Math

Today we focused on comparing and ordering positive and negative numbers. Tomorrow we will use positive and negative counters to help the kids see what happens when we add positive and negative numbers. Later we will work together to subtract positive and negative numbers. I think the counters help to make this abstract concept easier to understand. I will also provide experiences with number models for adding and subtracting positive and negative numbers using something called a slide rule. Both the counters and the slide rule will be available to use on the test that is coming next week to help with these concepts.

