

# KEEPING IN TOUCH

November 7, 2011



## Week in Review

### MS. MCTIGHE'S CLASSES

#### Reading

This week I will be introducing Literacy Stations to my class. Hopefully, we will be able to spend about 20 minutes every day on them in order to cover some skills in literacy that students need this year. There are five stations: Author Study, Grammar, Poetry, Vocabulary, and Literary Elements/Figurative Language. We have had such success with our math stations, and I hope students will not only enjoy these stations but learn valuable skills while having fun with a small group. Our next genre book is a nonfiction animal or bird book. This will be due on Thursday, 11-17, with a worksheet and one prompt. They will get that worksheet this week. I will be sending home the packet of WordMasters templates that my class did collectively. Students will need to make very complete flash cards in order to learn these definitions. They will be due next Tues., 11-15, and there will be a quiz on Friday, 11-18.

#### Math

We will finish up our work with reading and writing large numbers to the quadrillions using many zeroes. For example, we might have a number like this: 234,000,803,467,000,003. I want students to know that zeroes really do keep the place and the value of the number. There will be two quizzes starting tomorrow: one where I will say a large number and students have to write it and one where students will individually read large numbers to me. We'll also start working on understanding decimals. I'll show them the tenths, hundredths, and thousandths, but they only have to know the first two places. Basic facts this week:  $\pm 6$ .

### This Week at a Glance

#### Science...

Finishing Up Food Chains and Webs

#### Social Studies...

State Project Presentations

#### In the Spotlight...

*Owen and Sophia*

#### Writing...

State Project *Three Things I Learned*

#### Important Dates...

Nov. 9th: Reading Contest and AR END!  
 Reading Log Due  
 Nov. 10th **End of 1st Trimester**  
 Nov. 11th: NO SCHOOL (Veterans' Day)

#### Notes:

The Reading Contest and Accelerated Reading will end this **Wednesday, November 9th** for the first trimester. Students will look at how they did and set new reading goals for themselves for second trimester. Please look for those goal sheets that you also need to sign within the next



### MRS. STEFANI'S CLASSES

#### Reading

Grand totals for the first trimester contest will be tallied this week after the end of the contest on Wednesday. The students also took their new STAR reading tests downstairs in the computer lab to check their growth. Some students may have a new AR range as a result of that assessment. In shared reading this week we will continue to focus on character, setting and plot. We will also discuss conflict and character change. The students will be told that they can expect characters to be different at the end of a story from the way they were at the beginning, or know something at the end that they didn't know at the beginning. Sometimes these changes are easy to see and sometimes they are harder to see, so they will work often with partners to discuss their thoughts and ideas.

#### Math

Today POW folders are coming home with the first extended response assignment that is due on Thursday. I will always try to give the students several days to complete each POW. We went through all of the pages in the folders today, and I shared the teacher created sample with the class. They can use the sample as a guide when completing their own responses. There is an explanation for you as well as the requirements to get 4s (the highest score) on the IL state scoring rubric in the left pocket of the folder. Please take a look and let me know if you have any questions. When Mrs. Hurt joins us tomorrow and all week, we will work in stations to practice and prepare for the School Store. Students will learn how to write receipts and work the cash register. They will also create the part of the advertisement that will give our shoppers the information they need. We will spend additional time this week practicing various jobs, singing/saying advertisements, and establishing prices for our inventory items. *We hope to have our Grand Opening for our 4th grade shoppers on Thursday!*