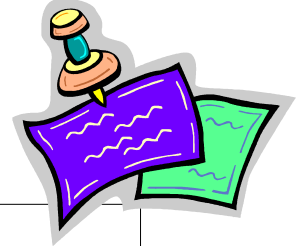


KEEPING IN TOUCH

September 26, 2011



Week in Review

MS. MCTIGHE'S CLASSES

Reading

We will continue to work on Bloom's Taxonomy this week. His project may take several weeks for them to understand the levels of thinking and questioning. We will work on organization and voice in the 6+1 Traits of Writing program throughout this week. We will start a new novel, *The Indian in the Cupboard*, by Lynne Reid Banks. We will use this to model how to do a literature circle. We'll continue working on words and vocabulary every day. This week we'll look at the etymology or origins of words. We'll focus on stem list #2 this week since our test is this Friday, 9-30. Students need to review all the stems in list #1. All the stems from list #2 will be on the test and some stems from list #1 will be on the test (they never know which ones so they have to study all of them). This program is cumulative so each time there is a new test, they have to study all of the lists. We're starting an opera unit with Mrs. Hurt.

Math

We'll be finishing up our data and graphing unit this week. If all goes as planned, we will have our unit test on Thursday, 9-29. We are going to do our School Store surveys this week. First, students will complete the survey in our math class. Then we'll survey another fifth grade class. We'll tally the results in both classes to find out what students want to buy at our School Store this year. Then Mrs. Stefani will tally all the results for us from all the fourth and fifth grade classes so we can make informed decisions when we are in charge of the School Store. Teachers are being trained again in *My Skills Tutor* this Wednesday. We will set up our classes and expectations so that you can access the program from home. This will be a great way to practice basic facts at home. Some students really need the extra practice in order to become fluent. Basic facts this week: $\times 2$ and $\div 2$.

This Week at a Glance

Science...
Food Chains and Webs

Social Studies...
Illinois Research

In the Spotlight...
Mrs. Nawojski

Writing...
Organization and Voice

MRS. STEFANI'S CLASSES

Reading

This week we are focusing on nonfiction and recognizing text structure. Since nonfiction plays an increasingly important role in the students' learning in the upper elementary grades, we will make it the focus of the majority of our guided reading group work as well as some shared reading activities. The goal is that through these activities they will be able to read and understand both narrative nonfiction and expository texts that are not written as stories. We will use *Time for Kids* this week as a common text for all of the class to discuss along with the book *Digging Up Tyrannosaurus Rex* that I introduced

Math

The "Using Data" test will be next Thursday (10-6). Some of the concepts in Unit 6 and two concepts in Unit 5 will be covered. The test will cover minimum, maximum, median and mode as well as stem and leaf plots and line plots. Knowledge of bar graphs and circle graphs will also be assessed. The students can use SRB pages 117-126 and to help review for the test. They will be asked to bring home the Student Reference Book (SRB) later this week. I will supply the percent circles for the students to use to create and measure circle graphs. They will also be able to use calculators in order to calculate the percentages. We will practice calculating percents and using the percent circles next Monday.

Important Dates...

September 27th-Author, Stephen Layne, visits
September 30th- State Project Resources Due
October 7th- Teacher Institute Day
November 1st- State Project Due

Notes:

During the next few weeks students should be working at home to research their states. The final state project is due on **Tuesday, November 1st** which is only five weeks away. Please let us know if you are having trouble finding resources.

