

KEEPING IN TOUCH

September 6, 2011



Week in Review

MS. MCTIGHE'S CLASSES

Reading

We will be finishing *Fudge-A-Mania* this week. We will continue to discuss how the author makes something humorous. Next we will begin working on how to do a literature circle with all the expectations of how to be a responsible member of a reading community. We will use *The Indian in the Cupboard* by Lynne Reid Banks to model how literature circles should be done. We will do it as a whole class with this book so that when students have to work in small groups, they will know exactly what their responsibilities are. We also are starting our first genre book, a prairie book. The due date for the prairie book is Thurs., 9-22. Students have to write ten things they learned about the prairie from the book. This is in preparation for our Prairie Field Trip to the Arboretum this fall. We will be doing business letters to the state students have chosen in writing as well as doing descriptive writing with Mrs. Hurt. Our first stem test #1 will be Thurs., 9-15.

Math

We are continuing to work on graphing in math class. We will learn more about ordered pairs, and we will have fun creating pictures with this math skill. Our 4th grade team is going to try a new schedule in our math classes this year. We extended our math time, and we will use the last 20 minutes of our math class to do interventions for students who need them and do math stations where students can explore topics such as algebra, problem-solving, measurement, and basic fact review. We hope we will be better able to meet the math needs of all of our students. In my math class we will begin our review of basic multiplication and division facts. This week we will start with $\times 10$ and $\div 10$.

This Week at a Glance

Science...
Scientific Method

Social Studies...
IL Research

In the Spotlight...
Mrs. Stefani

Writing...
Business Letters and Envelopes

Important Dates...
Thursday, Sept. 8th– Picture Day
–7:00 P.M. Open House

MRS. STEFANI'S CLASSES

Reading

This week we will discuss the concept of fluency and the students will have some opportunities to practice fluency in class. We will also continue to model roles and responsibilities that go along with our literature circles. Today we will practice the wordsmith job and later I will model what I expect when students are the connector and character educator. The novel we are reading to help model these jobs is *Fourth Grade Rats* by Jerry Spinelli. If you student is enjoying this novel, please tell them that there are many other books by Jerry Spinelli in our library! Author's purpose and reader's purpose will be other topics we discuss, and we will try to look at words in a whole new way! We will also begin our shared reading component this week. We are using a program called, "Making Meaning". The purpose of the program is to establish a reading community where students and staff come together to discuss what we are reading and the thinking skills we are applying as we read. There will be many opportunities for the students to "turn to their partners and talk".

Math

Mrs. Hurt, our Gifted Facilitator, was in today to work with the class. She will be joining us each Tuesday. The first "Mad Minute and 1/2" was returned today. The packet that was sent home during the first week is to be used as a resource throughout the year. The students should practice timed tests at home to help prepare for the test that they will take in class. Each "Mad Minute and 1/2" consists of 30 problems that should be solved in one and a half minutes. Students will move ahead on these timed tests at their own pace. During the rest of the week the students will continue to apply the divisibility rules to determine factors. We will also focus on squaring and "unsquaring" numbers. The Unit 1 test will be next Thursday. More information will be coming soon. On Friday the students will begin our problem solving simulation called, "Math Quest." Teams will play "Math Quest" in class most Fridays.

Notes:

Our Open House is scheduled for this Thursday, Sept. 8th at 7:00 P.M. Fourth Grade will begin our presentation in the large gym right after the HSO meeting, and then you will go to your child's reading class. After that, you will go to the math class. We hope to see you then!

