



C.U.S.D. # 202  
Schiesher Elementary School



Mrs. Hicks  
Room 18



### News in Mrs. Hicks' Room for the Week of September 26, 2011

**Homeroom:** According to the district calendar, picture make up day is **October 6<sup>th</sup>**. Midterm is on Friday of this week. Please be sure to keep on pace with your page total. Students are trying to reach 500 pages by November 9<sup>th</sup>. Students are coming home with several Scholastic Book Club order forms. You can order from any/all of these forms. Orders are due by Friday (no late orders accepted, sorry) and checks should be made payable to Scholastic Book Clubs.

**Math:** We will be moving on in math to Topic 1: Numeration. This topic focuses on number sense which includes place value, ordering and comparing numbers, rounding, and working with numbers with a decimal point (money). We will begin by reading and writing numbers up to the hundred thousands place and move to millions later in the week.

**Language Arts:** In language arts we are doing a lot of shared reading activities. Students listen to a story and discuss it with a partner. We have also been working on a novel study of *Sarah, Plain and Tall*. As we read this book together we are learning about different *literature circle* roles. Literature circles are basically book talk groups. Students will be put into small groups, assigned a book, and will be given different roles as a way to illustrate understanding and respond to the text in writing. I have been modeling how to complete these written tasks in an effort to help students learn how to do the task independently when we break off into small literature circle groups. When we break off into groups, these written assignments could become homework. I hope that students will feel confident in their abilities to complete these assignments independently since we have been spending so much time working on it in class together.

Our vocabulary focus has been roots and stems and learning how to figure out unknown words based on those roots or stems. Last week we talked about the root "graph" and how it means "to write." Then we looked at words that contain the root graph and we figured out their meanings. We studied photograph, geography, topography, bibliography, biography, autobiography, and autograph. We will continue with these words this week.

In addition to vocabulary, students will be given another spelling sort this week. I will give a pre-test this time to determine if there are any students who have already mastered these words. Those students will not be required to take the final test. The final test on these words will be **next Thursday**, October 6<sup>th</sup>.

Please keep turning in contest slips and reading logs, and continue to take AR tests on those books.

**Science:** We will continue to learn about simple machines this week. We will learn about force and friction.



**Social Studies:** We will continue to learn about Illinois. As we learn about Illinois we will study the geography, facts, recreation, and history of Illinois. As we learn about Illinois I will be modeling how to do the state project. Last week, a “bibliography form” was sent home. Students should record the sources they use on this form and turn it in whenever it is finished. It MUST be turned in to receive an A. You can keep it and turn it in with the project, or turn it in early. A minimum of 3 sources are required and must include 2 different types of sources (A website and a book, for example.) The project is due November 1<sup>st</sup> and if there are any questions please ask! Do not wait until the last minute to begin this project, please!

**Other Reminders:** Looking ahead to October there are 2 days off to note. There is no school on Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup> due to Teacher Institute and there is no school on Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup> due to Columbus Day.