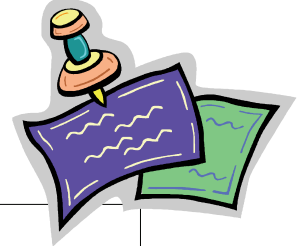


KEEPING IN TOUCH

September 8, 2009



Week in Review

MS. MCTIGHE'S CLASSES

Reading

We will continue reading *Fudge-A-Mania* this week. We'll discuss how an author creates humor in his or her writing and eventually, we'll try to do some humorous writing of our own. We'll be learning about the "Fabulous Four" this week—four reading strategies that help students strengthen their comprehension. We'll also continue our work with 8 vocabulary words from *Elements of Reading*. There will be a quiz on Friday, 9-11, on these words. Students will be asked to read a fictional book about the prairie as a supplement for our trip to the Morton Arboretum next week. This will be due Friday, 9-18. Mrs. Hurt will be working on descriptive writing as her unit with my class. We'll be working on improving our students ability to use a variety of words in their writing and to show not tell in their pieces. We also will start our Independent Studies. I'll send more information later on this program.

Math

We will be working on graphing again this week. Students have paired up to create a bulletin board bar graph for our class to fill in and discuss. Each pair will have a chance to "be the teacher" when it is their day to put up and present their bulletin board graph. We also will be learning about line graphs and ordered pairs. Throughout this unit we will practice using the vocabulary of mean, median, mode, and range. Hopefully, by the time we are through with this chapter, your child will know them well. We will start working on basic facts for multiplication and division. Eventually we will be using a computer program, *My Skills Tutor*, but until then, we'll practice in class and at home. This week: $\times 2$ and $\div 2$.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday

Scientific Method

Wednesday

Scientific Method
Illinois Prairie

Thursday

Spotlight on Ms. McTighe!
Illinois Prairie

Friday

State Project Letter Sent Home
IL Facts in Brief Quiz

Monday

Illinois Research

Notes:

We hope your child is getting excited about reading now that our reading contest has started. We would like to ask a favor of you. Please make sure you ask your child a few questions about the book slip that you are signing to make sure s/he has understood what s/he has read. We appreciate your help!



MRS. STEFANI'S CLASSES

Reading

This week the students will read about children who rode the Orphan Train. We will work on sentence structure and they will be challenged to create "4th grade" sentences. Basically, I am trying to encourage the students to use a great deal of description in their writing and try to choose interesting words. In a sample activity students will brainstorm the words to use in the place of "ran". For example, they may suggest using chased, dashed, raced or sprinted. This week we will continue to make connections as we read. See if your children can explain a text to self, text to text or text to world connection!

Math

Mrs. Hurt, our Gifted Facilitator, was in today to work with small groups. She will be joining us each Tuesday.

In class this week our focus will continue to be data and graphing. We will look more closely at sample size. I will also show a graphing PowerPoint I created to highlight the similarities and differences between different types of graphs. We will watch video clips embedded in the PowerPoint to understand the purpose for using a specific type of graph. Later in the week the students will begin our problem solving simulation called, "Math Quest." Teams will play "Math Quest" in class most Fridays.

It has been fun to get to know your students better with "These Numbers Really Sum Me Up"!