



Lapham Legend

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The Gauntlet:

Students who have read a book from the MYSTERY GENRE were able to participate in the GAUNTLET today! We used the game created by Mrs. Podraza to integrate technology, reinforce the elements of mystery, encourage reading and HAVE LOTS OF FUN together! Ask your child to tell you all about it. If they did not read a mystery novel, encourage them to read an INFORMATIONAL book in order to participate next time. THANK YOU so much to the parents who have donated for our raffle; we will have a raffle drawing at the end of each trimester. Students earn raffle tickets by reading books and participating in the Gauntlet Games.

Math

Fifth grade students need to be continuing to practice their math facts at home! This week we completed our unit on multiplication. Some students spent this week with different fifth grade math teachers; we split the groups carefully based on individual student need for problem solving or more practice with the multiplication algorithm. All students took the exact same math test Thursday and results were great! The students will get their grades early next week. Monday I will be teaching long division to my homeroom students. We will work on this concept for a month or so.

Language Arts:

We are continuing our work on studying text features in expository text. This week we read about the popularity of the sport of soccer, and about trends in school recess. Additionally, we are working on persuasive writing. We have completed our organizers and are writing our first drafts. Every paragraph has an excellent MAIN IDEA SENTENCE! Our topic is in response to a prompt written from the mayor's perspective which encouraged students to turn off the televisions!

SOCIAL STUDIES:

We have studied about explorers beyond Columbus: remember reading about Coronado, Pizarro, Sir Henry, and Cortez? Our students are learning about how the discoveries these explorers made changed their lives and the lives of the native peoples in the lands where they arrived. Explorers tended to follow the law of three G's: Gold, God, and Glory. We added Greed to the list. We became explorers ourselves as we searched for one hidden bar of brown gold... chocolate! We felt EXCITEMENT at the beginning of our journey, but great DISAPPOINTMENT and even ANGER when only two from the class took all of the treasure. This enabled us to empathize with the explorers who didn't succeed must have felt, as well as to identify with the native peoples who were conquered by these European explorers.

BAND: Band has begun! All of the students who signed up for band should have received their instruments and begun lessons. Remember, work missed from class while in band needs to be made up!