

March 5, 2010

3rd/4th Grade Friday Letters

Homeroom

Dear Third and Fourth Grade Families,

Here's a recap of what we did this week:

Math

Third Grade

- Created a collection of multiplication and division fact triangles in order to study inverse relationships.
- Studied and made arrays using geoboards.
- Practiced multiplication with three digit multiplier.
- Practiced multiplication facts.

Fourth Grade

- Discovered decimal values. Used base ten blocks as a hands on visual approach to the concept.
- Placed decimals on a number line to practice value.
- Solved addition and subtraction equations with decimals.
- Compared decimal and fractional notation.
- Practiced multiplication with a three digit multiplier.

Writing

- The children are learning to write a factual essay. This week they chose topics (something they have studied in school this year).
- They used a graphic organizer to visualize the format of an essay.

History

- The class finished reading "How We Crossed The West".
- As a class we summarized the travels of Lewis and Clark. We discussed their goals when they decided to explore the west. They class discovered their accomplishments and how their voyage shaped American history.

Science

- Studied the cause of earthquakes as part of the Earth Movements unit.
- Read scholastic news articles on the recent earthquakes in Haiti and Chile.
- Compared and contrasted the two situations.
- Took comprehension quizzes on the articles.

Announcements

- New Spellwells are on the way! Cc and Dd Spellwells will arrive next week. I have seen a recent improvement in spelling grades...let's keep studying!

-Conferences start in a week. Please sign up on the classroom door.

Thanks for all your help with the ice skating social this Friday. Students had a great time as was evidenced by their reluctance to end the day.

Have a great weekend!

-Lindsay

Art

The third and fourth graders continued their study of American folk art this week. After completing their collaborative “winter activity” quilt squares and faux stitching, the class began creating their own personal pieces of folk art. Students were encouraged to design meaningful pieces that were both functional and decorative. After sketching plans for their projects, the class got busy working with cardboard, glue, tape, paper mache, and paint to create fanciful and useful art pieces. Next week the students will continue to work on these projects. I also let the students bring materials home if they desired to work on them outside of class. Keep up the good work!

Spanish

This week we reviewed the Spanish names for animals while playing Bingo. We also finished our Cuban Carnival masks. The next Spanish-speaking country we are going to learn about is Chile. If you have any books, souvenirs or information to share about Chile, please have your child bring them to school next week to share with the class. Thanks, Danita