

# Classroom Times

December 2009

Mrs. Camara



## What's happening in Room242???

Happy Birthday :

Jared- Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>

Trevor- Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>

Alexys- Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>

### Math:

Students have been learning about multi-digit whole numbers. Students are encouraged to use estimation to help them with their accuracy. It would be helpful for many students to practice their multiplication facts at home. There are many on-line games that can help students in mastering multiplication tables. I will be sharing a school house rock CD that has multiplication songs for facts 1-12.

We have begun studying measurement (feet, yards, and miles). We will also be covering the conversion of millimeters, centimeters, and decimeters.

Science: Students will begin studying energy and work in January. I am excited to explore with students the various hands on material we have for this unit.

Social Studies: Students have been studying the three major pre-Columbian civilizations that existed in Central and South America (Mayas, Aztecs and Incas.) I was amazed at how interested the students were in learning about the three

ELA: Students have a biography book report due on January 15th. This information will be sent home the first week of December. Please sign the slip that states you are aware of this project and the date it is due ☺. Students have just finished Unit 2 in the reading series. Many students are doing much better on the weekly tests. Students are making the effort to study the vocabulary, theme, and concepts of each story.

Students have finished their benchmark testing. This testing is done at the completion of a reading unit (about every 5 weeks). This is a form of assessing students on all the target skills they have learned over the past few weeks. It includes comprehension, vocabulary, open responses, reading themes, and grammar skills. As a class we are reading "Midnight Rider" This novel is fictional and is about the American Revolution.

Civilizations. We will be having a party in honor of the Maya, Aztec, and Inca. At our party we will be making masks, weaving and eating treats that are related to the food origins for this civilization. I will be sending home a notice in January.



## Writing:

Students have been working diligently on their weekly writing assignments. They have been meeting with their peers for editing and constructive advice. I believe that sharing their writing is a great way for students to be exposed to different styles and abilities. I

am beginning to see a great deal of growth in much of the writing the students have been producing.

## Holiday Tips

Here are some ideas for parents on managing holiday stress 😊

- 1.) Set expectations- talk to your kids about expectations for gifts and holiday activities. Be open with them if money is an issue. Depending on a child's age, parents can use this as an opportunity to teach their kids about the value of money and responsible spending.
- 2.) Perspective- Keep things in perspective- consider stressful situations in a broader context and keep a long-term perspective. Teach your kids how to keep things in perspective, including the number of gifts they receive.
- 3.) Make connections- Good relationships with family and friends are important. So, view the holidays as a time to reconnect with people.

Written by APA (The American Psychological Association)

## Notes:

Monday Folders: The blue folders that go home each Monday should be returned by Wednesday of each week. Each student who does not return their folder by Wed. will miss recess. This will ensure that you have seen the folder and are aware of your child's weekly progress. A grade that is less than a 70 should be signed and returned with the folder.

Veteran's Day: Students did a beautiful job honoring the Veteran's at a recent assembly.

Christmas Break- The last day of School is Friday Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> and we return on Monday January 4<sup>th</sup>.



