

# Classroom Times

December 2011

Mrs. Camara



## What's happening in Room242???

### Math:

Students have been learning about multiplying multi-digit whole numbers and multiplying with decimals. 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 have started studying energy and work. I am excited to explore with students the various hands on material we have for this unit.

Social Studies: When science unit is complete we will study the three major pre-Columbian civilizations that existed in Central and South America (Mayas, Aztecs and Incas.)

ELA: Students have a biography book report due on January 11<sup>th</sup>. The information about the project was sent home the last week of November. 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 will be taking their January benchmark test. This testing is done at the completion of two reading units. This is a form of assessing students on all the target skills they have learned. It includes comprehension, vocabulary, open responses, reading themes, and grammar skills. As a class we are finishing "Hatchet." Students have enjoyed reading this novel and we have had many class discussions about survival and the wilderness.

Happy Birthday :

Asia- Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>

Breanna- Dec. 22nd



## 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:

Christmas Concert: December 14<sup>th</sup>

Midterm Reports- December 12th

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

Christmas Break- The last day of School is Thursday Dec. 22nd and we return on Tuesday January 3rd.



