



Reading

This month, we are starting Unit 3 in reading which focuses on inventors and artists. Students will recognize what we gain from some of these important people, and have a chance to try their hand at getting creative in the classroom. Ask your child about their t-shirt art, and their recent invention.

Each week students will read a different story in their text books, and reading tests will be given on Fridays. Students are required to read the weekly story at home every Monday, and are encouraged to bring home their reading books to re-read the story on Thursday nights. On Mondays I will continue to send home a “Family Times” sheet to give families an idea of what we are reading as well as activities and discussion topics you can do with your child. This sheet will also include a list of spelling words to keep and work on at home.

In addition to our regular text, we will be starting a new novel this month.

Writing/Language Arts

Students write every day. We work intensively on a large writing piece for each unit, and we also practice writing using MCAS style prompts. Students have the chance to work within small groups to focus on their specific writing needs. We also look at finished products (with names removed) to critically analyze them and discuss scoring. Students practice giving feedback that is positive and constructive so we can learn to improve our writing.

Spelling lists are given on Monday mornings. Students keep their spelling lists in their agendas and on the reading home connection sheet.

Math

Students will be multiplying whole numbers and decimals and beginning to review division. We will also be studying millimeters, centimeters, and perimeter. In geometry students will be learning about area of triangles.

Please review multiplication and division facts and processes with your child at home as needed. This is critical since we briefly review these things in class before moving on to more complex math.

Social Studies

This month we will continue to dig deeper into our Maya, Aztec, and Inca unit. We will learn so much about these fascinating people that have contributed so much to the technology we still use today. Check out this website for more interesting information about these tribes: <http://www.mrdonn.org>. Click on the Maya, Aztec, or Inca. If you have problems getting to the site you could always Google “mrdonn.org maya”, “mrdonn.org aztec”, or “mrdonn.org inca”, and it should be one of the first things that the search comes up with.

We’ll be using this site, and students will find lots of kid-friendly facts about the tribes. This site will also help to generate ideas for an upcoming project. Information for this project will be sent home before winter vacation.

Science

Our next unit is on energy and work. Students will have the opportunity to do lots of experiments in class, and use a hands-on approach to explore these topics and gain a better understanding of them.

Reminders

- Please remind your child to bring a jacket to school each day. At times it gets very cold during recess, and students who do not have jackets will not be allowed to play outside.
- Homework is an extension of class work, and is equally important in learning new skills. Please remember to check your child’s agenda and homework daily.

- All future test, quiz, and project dates will be listed in your child's agenda. Please check in with your child frequently to help keep him or her on track.
- Students should have a silent reading book with them everyday. If students finish work early, they are required to read. Silent reading helps students build fluency and comprehension, which is essential for all subjects.
- Any donations of anti-bacterial wipes are appreciated! 😊