



Reading

We have just completed the ELA mid year assessment test. We are now into the theme for unit 4 which is Adapting to Different Situations. We will look at ways people adapt to difficult situations, how they live with physical limitations, why people try to change themselves, how animals adapt to survive, and how people adapt to new schools. Look for the Family Times sheets each Monday in your child's home folder. It will explain each story, skill, vocabulary, grammar, and spelling for that week. It also has extension activities to do with your child at home. The students will be exposed to genres such as fiction, expository nonfiction, autobiographies, and a play in this unit. We have also been focusing a great deal on answering open response questions. This includes referring back to the stories we read in order to respond to questions with enough detail. The students are learning to strengthen their response skills by reading work of their peers, and learning how to put information into their own words. We are almost finished with the novel Fish. We've been learning what it's like for a family

of aid workers trying to flee the war torn country they've been working in. Ask your child about the connection between the title and the plot of the story.

Writing/Language Arts

We are working on descriptive writing, adding adjectives and adverbs to make our stories more exciting. Everyone wrote delightful stories about the 1st snowfall. Ask them to share theirs with you. Each morning the students have also been practicing proofreading and editing in their daily oral language, learning to be aware of mistakes in grammar. We are also going to learn the common prepositions by singing the preposition song, have your child sing it to you. It has been a fun way to memorize them. Our class will also write stories about a time we had to adapt to a new situation in our lives, as well as a time we achieved a goal. Students should access spelling city from home and practice their weekly spelling lists in many fun ways throughout the week. I would also like them to use Study Island at home to practice skills for MCAS. There are fun games to play on that site as well.

Math

We are moving through chapter 4, working with division of 1 and now 2 digit divisors. Students need to continue practicing their facts each night, so they can connect it in the division process. The class is also learning formulas to measure area and perimeter of triangles, polygons, rectangles, and parallelograms. This can be difficult because remembering which formula to use can really mix them up. Our class is also learning about prime and composite numbers and how to identify which is which.

Social Studies

The projects and essays were spectacular for Early Civilizations. I could tell they really put so much effort into these projects. We've displayed them in the cases in the school foyer for all to enjoy. In technology this month we will learn to create PowerPoint presentations. They will become technology wizards. Our next unit is European Explorers. The students will learn what each explorer set out to find, what they found, and how their discoveries changed the image of the world. The students will work in partners to create the PowerPoint on a specific explorer. I'm looking forward to seeing all the cool techniques they will put together to present their information. A huge thank you to Mr. Perry our technology assistant for helping us each week,

we have become so much more knowledgeable about computers. At the end of the month ask your child about the explorers around the world. I bet you'd be surprised at what you'd also learn about the expeditions leading to civilizations in the United States.



Science

We are in the middle of the Energy and Work unit. The experiments are fun for everyone. The next unit is Simple Machines. It also has many fun activities, and another great movie done by Bill Nye the Science Guy. Students have focused on types of energy and how they can change from one form to another. We also experimented with friction to understand when it is useful and when it is not. Have you gone sledding this winter? Ask your child if they need or want friction for that. The class will also build types of Simple Machines in order to make doing work easier. We have so many simple machines in our daily lives. You'd be surprised at some of them I bet.



Reminders

- Homework is an extension of class work, and is equally important in learning new skills. **Please remember to check your child's agenda and home folder daily!** Some students are coming in to school without homework completed, and are spending their recess time making it up. **Those students who continue not getting work done will begin staying after school for detentions.** Students need to learn to become responsible learners.
- Children should be spending some time at home logging on to Study Island practicing ELA, Math, and Science for the MCAS test this spring.
- Spellingcity.com is another website we have been using. Students can also access this site from home to practice their weekly spelling words. Another great site is Funbrain.com for practice with math skills, and Dancemattyping.com for typing practice. Lexia should also be used to improve reading skills.

