



## Reading

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 theme for unit 3 has been Inventors and Artists, and how we can be inspired from them. We have 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 sufficient detail. The students will take a mid year assessment this month encompassing all the skills they have learned in ELA this year so far. We have finished our 2<sup>nd</sup> novel titled Hatchet. Students are responsible for creating a diorama depicting a scene from the story, as well as a written piece that corresponds with it. This will be due **Fri. Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>**.

## Writing/Language Arts

Students did a nice job on their compare & contrast essays. Hope you get to read them. They were about the similarities and differences between themselves & Pilgrim boys & girls. This month we will also work on description writing, adding adjectives and adverbs to make our stories more interesting. Each student has written a personal goal for the New Year as

well. Something they want to try to succeed at. We will also practice proofreading and editing in our daily oral language, learning to be aware of mistakes in grammar. Too often I find careless mistakes in their grammar, so this tells me we need to focus on this skill more. They have also been keeping journals since the beginning of the year to write down their thoughts on various subjects. Ask them to bring theirs home to show you. We have written poetry for our winter bulletin board, and they are learning about similes, metaphors, personification, idioms, imagery, and onomatopoeia. Take time to ask your child about these various skills.

## Math

We have moved into chapter 4 which focuses on division with 1 digit divisors, prime and composite numbers, and divisibility rules. Students need to practice their facts each night to know them better than they do now. Please work with your child practicing long division problems also. Another skill the students have been working hard on is standard and metric conversions. The class is also learning formulas to measure area and perimeter of triangles and polygons. We will have a math quarterly test this month which will include all skills we've been working on since school started.

## Social Studies

We will finish the Early Civilization Unit this week. The project and essay are due on **January 17th**. I have sent home information so the directions are clear. If anyone hasn't received a sheet please contact me. We will create Mayan hieroglyphics, Aztec warrior masks, and Inca weavings when we have our Early Civilization party as well. Our next unit will be European Explorers. Students will create PowerPoint presentations during Technology class. I'm eager to see how elaborate a job they will do.

## Science

Our next unit is Energy and Simple Machines. The class will build types of simple machines in order to make doing work easier. You'd be amazed at the amount of basic simple machines you have around your house, and use on a daily basis. We will focus on friction, potential and kinetic energy, chemical, heat, and electrical energy, and light and sound energy. Do you

know the differences between them all? Did you know energy can change forms?



## **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.
- Check with your child to see if they are running low on supplies. This is about the time school supplies need to be replenished.
- Children should be spending some time at home logging on to Study Island practicing ELA, Math, and Science for the MCAS test this spring. They should also log on to Lexia and IXL to practice skills in reading and math that they are learning in class. These are all websites they are familiar with and use in school.