

Thornton/Yelle Newsletter

9/30/16

The Reading Corner...

We have finished our classroom read aloud Because of Winn-Dixie. Students have enjoyed creating connections with the characters and discussing character development throughout the novel. We have explored the different themes of the read aloud and made different reading and writing connections. We have identified how the author, Kate DiCamillo, uses the same writing strategies we are trying to practice with our own stories. Students were sad to finish the beloved book, but are excited to read another read aloud by the same author titled Tiger Rising.

In Social Studies and Science This Week...

In Social Studies we hopped on the train and began our journey around the Northeast region. The kiddos are reading articles to learn more about the landmarks, environment and climate of the Northeast Region. In Science we had a chance to create temporary magnets using permanent magnets. We learned about the atoms and how they are formed in these two forms of magnets.

Writers Workshop...

Students have done a wonderful job bringing their characters to life! They have generated a list of internal and external character traits for their unique characters. We are developing our visualization strategies by listing character traits, actions, wants and struggles. Students were asked to think about what their characters yearns for, and what begins to get in the way of that. By doing so, they are developing a character struggle that helps make their story complex and entertaining.

In Math This Week...

Our little mathematicians have been working hard to compare and order multi-digit numbers. We have learned many strategies that can help us organize many big numbers at a time. One our favorite practice games is Beat the Teacher. The kiddos love when they can make a bigger number than me. Next week we will be hopping on our number train and organizing numbers from the hundreds to the millions!

Important Dates and Reminders

The kiddos are doing awesome job improving their math fact knowledge! Keep up the great work at home!

No Spelling homework this week.

Winn-Dixie review and games this week to prepare for our test this Friday.

Conversations Starters

1. Have your 4th grader teach you how to play beat the teacher. All you need is a deck of cards with the digits 0-9 and plain white paper. Have fun!
2. What is the difference between a permanent magnet and temporary magnet? Try to make one at home.
3. What does your character in your story yearn for?
4. What struggles will they face along the way?