

4/7/17

## The Reading Corner...

We have started a new nonfiction unit in Reader's Workshop! We have distributed nonfiction book baggies to all students and they are beginning to fill the book baggies with self-selected books that are both important and interesting. Students have already started to make connections with their books. The aim for these first few lessons is for students to choose an accessible book that is easy to read, so we can master the more difficult reading skills such as determining the main idea and summarizing chapters. With that context of high-interest engagement with a text, students will begin to reason, analyze, weigh evidence and problem solve. All students have a reading partner to foster shared reading experiences and conversations.

## Writers Workshop...

We also have started a new opinion writing unit where students are drafting literary essays. Student partnerships have been distributed a short story where they have been generating ideas about a text with their partner. In addition, pairs have been studying the characters, and recording written ideas using thought prompts as a vehicle to develop deeper ideas. This is encouraging students to push their thinking beyond the text, and infer on a more meaningful level. Students have been doing a fantastic job elaborating on their opinions of their short stories.

## In Math This Week...

Our little mathematicians have been working hard with Mixed Numbers and Improper Fractions this week. They have been learning how to change from one to the other and how to add and subtract mixed numbers.

We have also been learning how to change fractions with denominators of tenths and hundredths. This will get our mathematicians read for our decimal unit in a few weeks.

Next week, students will be learning how to multiply a whole number by a fraction.

## Important Dates and Reminders

- ELA MCAS: 4/10, 4/11, 4,12
- No School 4/14
- April Vacation 4/17 – 4/21
- Math MCAS 5/15, 5/16
- Sturbridge Village field trip 5/24
- See the attached document for changes in the Thornton Special Schedule next week.

## In Social Studies and Science This Week...

In Social Studies the students are working hard on their Midwest Region Scrapbook pages.

This time, the students will be writing an informational piece about their topic. This mirrors the unit they just finished in writing about how to write an informational piece.

They are doing a wonderful job and I am so excited to read all about what they learned. We will be jumping on a plane and heading to the Southwest Region next. The students are excited to create their sand art project next week to represent the Southwest region.

In Science we continue to discuss properties of matter. This week we talked about the phases of matter and how matter changes in the water cycle.

## Conversations Starters

### ELA review questions

1. Think back to when you wrote your narrative story. What were some writing techniques you learned?
2. What are the five points on a story arc?
3. Show the strategy you use to change an improper fraction to a mixed number
4. Share an interesting fact about your Midwest Region Topic.