

Thornton/Yelle Newsletter

2/9/18

The Reading Corner...

Students have been reading their high-interest nonfiction texts in their weather research groups. Each group is researching a natural disaster. Through research and analysis, students are learning how to determine the main idea, summarize a text, and determine the text structure. Students have been synthesizing their skills in a comprehensive manner by using main idea and details, and text structure to help them craft a 4-6 sentence summary of their just-right nonfiction text. Students have also taken a comprehension quiz on their just-right text, which have recently come home.

Writers Workshop...

We are continuing to work on our opinion writing unit. Students developing more sophisticated writing where they are introducing their topic (opinion statement), providing reasons to support their opinions, and using facts and details to elaborate their writing. Students are practicing traditional thesis-driven essays. We are learning about the structure and organization of the traditional 5 paragraph essay. We have modeled a very fun, and engaging thesis-driven, five paragraph essay, titled I love ice cream.

In Math This Week...

Our little mathematicians are doing a wonderful job persevering through complex division problems. We have been working with real world problems and how to interpret remainders. Using their visualizing skills, the students are able to picture themselves in the problem to figure out what to do with what is left over. It's not easy, but they are loving the challenge! They especially love discussing the problem with their group members!

We have also been practicing new multiplication and division fact practice games. They are encouraged to teach someone at home the new games they learn!

Important Dates and Reminders

- Please ask your 4th grader how their supply of pencils are lasting. Students are running out of pencils!
- February vacation – 2/19/19 – 2/23/19
- Valentines letters have been sent home

In Social Studies and Science This Week...

In Social Studies we are beginning to look at all the wonderful Scrapbook Pages that have come in. The kiddos love sharing what they learned with their classmates

In Science we continue to learn about different animals of the world. Next week we will be discussing the adaptation of camouflage by create our own camouflage butterflies around the classroom. Maybe you will be able to find some of our butterflies when you come to conferences in March!

Conversations Starters

1. Teach someone at home how to play heads up math facts. All you need is a deck of cards.
2. If you were a wild animal, what type of habitat would you want to live in and why?
3. What are the different types of text structures found in nonfiction texts?
4. What is a thesis statement?