

# Thornton/Yelle Newsletter

1/12/18

## The Reading Corner...

We have started our nonfiction unit on weather in readers' workshop. Students have collected nonfiction texts to read during independent reading time, and during workshop time students are practicing comprehension skills with their just-right nonfiction texts. All students are working in an extreme weather groups where they have multiple resources to enrich their minds and dive deep with their topics. This week we learned how to read nonfiction well by making connections, activating prior knowledge, scanning for text features and determine the text structure.

## Writers Workshop...

We have started a new opinion writing unit in writers' workshop. In this unit, students will be learning how to formulate a strong opinion and write a structured five paragraph essay with three reasons to support their opinion. Students have learned how to develop a thesis statement and we have practiced developing an opinion essay by writing a class essay together with the thesis:

*I Love Ice Cream.*

## In Math This Week...

Our little mathematicians did a wonderful job on their Unit 1 "Celebration of Knowledge!" I am so proud of all of their hard work. Please keep an eye out for those results coming home next week. This week we have been working on our problem solving skills. We have brainstormed problem solving strategies and are putting them to use as we solve multi-step word problems. We are in the process of making Perfect Problem Solving Posters for our classroom.

## Important Dates and Reminders

- Next week is a DOL week
- No School 1/15/18 – Martin Luther King Day
- No School 1/16/18 – Professional Development

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

In Social Studies we began discussing our Northeast Region Research Project. The kiddos are excited to research their topics at home. We went over note taking strategies and they saw an example on Acadia National Park. I am looking forward to hear all about what they found next week.

In Science we began discussing Electricity. We are looking forward to exploring more with exciting experiments.

## Conversations Starters

1. What is a problem solving strategy that you like to use when solving difficult math problems?
2. What is the difference between text structure and text features?
3. What is a thesis statement?
4. What are the four types of nonfiction text structures we are studying?