

Thornton/Yelle Newsletter

5/12/17

The Reading Corner...

We have been doing wonderful research in our nonfiction unit for Readers' Workshop! Students have now formed research teams on high-interest weather topics. We have six research teams total: floods, droughts, earthquakes, tornadoes, tsunamis, and hurricanes. Each research team has started their responsibilities of gathering resources and reading about their topics. The goal is for readers to sort through all of their information, including books, articles, and videos, to determine the main idea. Readers that can determine the main idea and important points are able to summarize their topics effectively and teach/inform other teams about their topics.

Writers Workshop...

Students did a wonderful job with their literary essays! All students effectively read a short story, formed an opinion, developed a thesis and developed a writing piece off of their thesis. The structure of their writing is more commonly known as a five paragraph essay.

Students have also developed their open response writing and have become very fluent and confident with their open response writing. Their opinion writing from the literary essay unit supports their knowledge and practice of students' open response writing.

In Math This Week...

Our little mathematicians have been working hard as we finish up our fraction unit. They have done a great job using manipulatives and other strategies to find equivalent fractions, compare fractions, multiply fractions by a whole number and even convert fractions to decimals! Check out their binders too see all the strategies they have learned throughout our fraction unit.

We have also been exploring measurement and geometry! Students have had a great time learning all the geometrical terms and how they apply to the real world. Our Earth Day geometry scenes will be coming home in the next few weeks! They are doing a great job!

To tie into a geometry unit, the kiddos have been working hard on a special Mother's Day gift! We hope all our wonderful mother's out there have a fabulous Mother's Day!

Important Dates and Reminders

* Math MCAS Monday and Tuesday next week

* Sturbridge Village Field Trip Wednesday May 24th

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. What is a thesis statement?
2. What research team are you a part of in readers' workshop? What have you researched, and learned thus far?
3. Play Simon Says with all our geometry terms.
4. Share an interesting fact about your Midwest Region Topic.