

# Thornton/Yelle Newsletter

11/4/16

## The Reading Corner...

This week we have been focusing on determining the main idea for several expository texts. Students have been using short paragraphs, articles, and longer expository texts to determine the passage's topic. This is a harder skill for students to determine independently. We have been asking focus questions to help students determine the main idea independently (see conversation starters). Students are practicing to use complete thoughts, and complete sentences when determining the main idea. They are super stars when it comes to finding evidence that serve as supporting details. It takes a masterful detective when it comes to locating evidence in the text to support their reasoning. Keep up the great work students!

## Writers Workshop...

Students are finishing drafting and revising their realistic fiction stories that are based on a small moment. Notebooks will be coming home today, so you can view your child's progress of their writing. Please keep in mind that drafting, re-drafting, and revising is a creative process that takes time to establish organization. Please be on the lookout for the Story Arc in notebooks that serves as an organizer for their plot. Students have written out each scene on from their story arc on the following pages in their notebooks. Each scene has a title on the top of the page. If you have a moment, please look at their progress thus far, and offer any positive feedback you can on the hard work they have put forth. Students are very proud of their stories and would like to share. We will continue to edit, and publish our stories in class.

## In Math This Week...

Our little mathematicians have been working hard on problem solving this week. We have made Perfect Problem Solving Posters that have been displayed around our room. Some are coming home this week, while others will be on display in the classroom. We have also began discussing different strategies to add and subtract multi-digit whole numbers. The students have been working hard to teach others these strategies.

## Important Dates and Reminders

- Reading log will be due Monday.
- No School 11/8/16, 11/11/16
- Half Day 11/23/16
- No School 11/24/16, 11/25/16
- Report Cards go home 11/23/16
- Conferences 11/30/16, 12/1/16  
(Schedule will be sent out shortly)

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

In Social Studies we have been working hard as we write our Northeast Region stories. It has been such a pleasure listening to their drafts and brainstorming new ideas to incorporate. I can't wait to see the final drafts. Next week, students will be coming home with their final writing on a scrapbook page. They will be required to decorate it at home. Please be on the look-out for an email and assignment sheet that will explain this further.

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

## Conversations Starters

1. What is a strategy you would use to add and subtract big numbers?
2. Describe you Northeast story to someone at home.
3. What is the author trying to teach me?
4. Can I find details to support the topic?