

# Thornton/Yelle Newsletter

10/21/16

## The Reading Corner...

We have been learning about fairy tales with the story *The Horned Toad Prince*, and have been building our reading skills by discussing the author's purpose. Our class has started to break down stories and find their literary elements by mapping them onto a story mountain to help build our comprehension skills. Students have done a fantastic job identifying the problem, rising action, climax and resolution. We are using the story mountain in reading, and the story arc in writers' workshop, to understand more reading/writing connections. Students are beginning to understand how stories have certain elements and structures that qualify them as a literary piece.


## Writers Workshop...

This week in writers' workshop students are continuing to draft their realistic fiction narratives. Everyone has plotted their literary elements on a story arc, and we are using their story arc as an organizer to anchor our thoughts. Classmates are learning that the goal of the story arc is to help the writers see the big picture and the shape of their story. In turn, events will unfold, characters will change, and moments will link together chronologically. This week we have learned how to orient our readers with setting, write powerful endings, and revise our work with new lenses. We are learning to weave together character actions, thoughts/feelings, and dialogue. Mentor texts have been a wonderful guide for our writers to make their stories diverse and rich in detail.

## In Math This Week...

Our little mathematicians have been working hard to round multi-digit whole numbers. We have been using a number line as a strategy to help us round numbers into the millions to any place. This is a tricky skill for our 4<sup>th</sup> graders and they are all doing a wonderful job! They are looking forward to sharing all they learned with you as they complete their study guide this week. Please work with you mathematician to help them prepare for our "Celebration of Knowledge" on Tuesday October 25<sup>th</sup> (please refer to email sent earlier this week). Next week we will be putting our problem solving skills to use. Yesterday we brainstormed all the different strategies we use to problem solve. This strategy web will be going in their binders soon.

## Important Dates and Reminders

- Both sides of the reading log will be due Monday.
-  [10-17-16 Reading Log.pdf](#)
- No spelling next week.
- Optional pumpkins for parade due 10/28/16
- Ms. Yelle's class be on the lookout for a head room parent letter.
- Unit 1 Study Guide due Monday (if your child has not already brought it in)
- Unit 1 Test Tuesday October 25

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

In Social Studies we have finished our study of the Northeast Region. Students will be working on a culminating project starting next week. This Scrapbook Page project will be done at home and at school. Keep an eye out for information on that coming next week. In Science we will begin our study of electricity next week. We will discuss how magnets and electricity are related and even explore how to build an electrical circuit.

## Conversations Starters

1. How can we use virtual manipulatives to help us solve problems?
2. Who is NED and what does each letter in NED stand for?
3. How are a story mountain and a story arc similar?
4. What does it mean to SHOW not tell?