

# Thornton/Yelle Newsletter

10/20/17

## The Reading Corner...

We have been discussing how to make a mental movie in your mind when you are reading independently to envision the characters actions. This skill is also known as visualizing. Students have been putting themselves in their characters shoes to "live in the scene from the book and using the power of the minds' eye to put themselves in the scene."(Lucy Calkins) In addition, students are practicing to STOP and JOT while reading. A skill we learned in our launch unit. They can try this skill at home with their reading logs as well! When students stop to jot, they are recording what they are envisioning, any inferences they have, and any conclusions they can draw from the text. In summary, students are learning to how to effectively respond to their readings. We keep a reading log in school with our just-right books as well and we are learning how to set goals for reading and practice skills independently.

## Writers Workshop...

I hope you were as excited as I was to see student progress on our realistic fiction stories in student's writing journals! Their journals are a testament of all of the hard work we complete in school. Praise is always much appreciated when students share these at home. Again, our goal for this unit is to write a realistic fiction stories that begin with a small moment and have fictional elements. Students are using a story arc to guide their thinking. We are in the beginning stages of our stories, and students are just beginning to develop their characters. We have already made great progress analyzing character wants, actions, traits, and struggles. Each student is also listing internal and external character traits for their character in their story to bring their character to life!

## 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! Next week we will look at adding really large multi-digit numbers. We will use what we have already learned about place value to understand the process of adding large multi-digit numbers and regrouping! Next week your mathematicians will be bringing home their math binders to show off all they have learned and accomplished so far this year!

## Important Dates and Reminders

- Optional pumpkins due on 10/30

## 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 Matter! We have started looking at the 3 different states of matter and sorting different objects into them.

## Conversations Starters

1. What is a problem solving strategy that you like to use when solving difficult math problems?
2. What are the 3 different states of matter?
3. What are some internal and external character traits for the character in your story?
4. What does it mean to make a movie in your mind while reading?