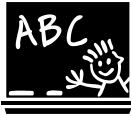


Team Fusion News

September 24, 2010



Announcements

Please read over this newsletter, sign the attached portion and return it to school with your child (if you received a hardcopy), or **email me a reply if you received an electronic version.** Newsletters like this will go home/be emailed and then posted on our website regularly. Some weeks, when I have nothing new to share, or if there are events that prohibit the time necessary to write one up, you may not receive one. Your child will record "Newsletter" as a homework assignment if there is one sent home. These communications take up a good chunk of time, so I respectfully ask that you please try to do your part in returning the signature page to school or emailing me back to know that you have been informed. It will also be an opportunity for you to ask me questions or comment about what is going on at school. Thanks!!

Open House

It was great to see so many Fusion families on Open House night, Wednesday. We had a great turn out. If you did not get a chance to come in, please don't hesitate to email or call me if you have questions or concerns.

Language Arts

I introduced the *Daybook for Critical Reading and Writing* to students this week. This will be a useful resource for developing the six tools active readers use to comprehend what they read. They are:

Making Connections – relating what is read to other texts, to one's self, or to what is happening or has happened in the world

Determining Importance – figuring out which details are important based on what a reader knows, his/her opinion, or based on the purpose for reading the text

Asking Questions – posing questions of the author such as, what will happen next, why did the character make that decision, how will this help, what does this word mean?

Visualizing – creating an image in the mind based on what a reader sees, feels, hears, smells, or tastes based on the text

Making Inferences – Author's don't write down everything! Readers have to reason what was meant by the author and predict, conclude, or interpret

Synthesizing – changing one's thoughts based on new information. Readers are finding the big idea or the theme.

Math

We are working on **Investigations II, Unit: 1** – Number Puzzles and Multiple Towers. We have begun our second investigation called multiplication strategies.

Math Focus Points:

- Representing and solving multiplication problems and comparing strategies
- Using arrays to represent different ways of breaking up a problem
- Estimating and comparing products involving multiples of 10
- Solving multiplication problems by breaking up each one and using related problems

How you can help at home

Being able to quickly recall multiplication facts will only come with practice. I encourage you to talk math with your kids and try to incorporate

math fact practice into your routines at home. You might even find it helpful to post troublesome facts in highly frequented locations, like the refrigerator door or bathroom mirror with a post-it note. You can also access the math facts practice program called **Math Facts in a Flash** on our class website. Students login with their login ID as they would for accessing computers at school. The password is abc.

Science

Theme: Cells

We have begun talking about magnifiers as a scientist's tool for seeing into the microscopic world around us. We will continue to explore with hand lens and other kinds of lenses next week as we prepare for using the microscope. We have been finding observable properties of and sketching various objects. We have integrated poetry into our science discoveries by writing cinquain science poems based on our observations.

Students are encouraged to bring in items they wish to observe more closely under a hand lens next week. Items should be brought in to school on MONDAY, September 27.

Volunteers Needed:

I'm looking for someone to prepare 40 pieces of waxed paper, cut into 3" X 3" squares, and 40 pieces of newspaper, cut into 3" X 3" squares.

I also need the following:

4" X 6" sections of newspaper and glossy magazines including:

- Black & White photographs from newspaper
- Black & White photographs from glossy magazines
- Color photographs from newspaper
- Color photographs from glossy magazines

If you are able to help with these materials, please email me as soon as possible so I know not to work this into my weekend schedule.

Social Studies

Theme: Geography

Students have been integrating technology into a geographical region research project. Teams of two or three have been researching the landforms, environment, climate, and natural resources of various geographical regions of North America. This research is being collated into either a poster or power point presentation which will be presented next week.

Field Trips

I have an opportunity to apply for a grant that will cover the cost of a field trip for our class this year. I am looking for feedback from students and parents as to where we should go. The only trips I am currently planning are small trips to Mills Riverside Park and a trip to the Audubon in Huntington when we study Natural Resources later in the year. I encourage you to email me with your suggestions. The application is due this coming THURSDAY!!! Even if we do not get awarded a grant, we will still go on field trips. Because teachers are not given a field trip budget, this grant would go a long way to help ease the burden of cost on families.

Have a great weekend!