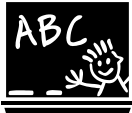


Team Fusion News

January 7, 2011



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.** Thanks!!

After School Plans

There have been numerous requests from students to use the phone during the day in order to call a parent and iron out the details of after school plans. Please discuss your plans for after school with your child before the school day starts. Use of the phone should be limited to emergencies. Its frequent use is a distraction and disruption to our academic time together. Students going home with other students or who are planning to take a different bus need a signed note from a parent to do so. Students will no longer be allowed phone time to track down this permission. Please do not rely solely on email as the way to communicate changes in after school destinations. If your plans change during the day, please call the office and let Mrs. Alexander know. She will pass any news onto your child. I am not always able to check my email before students are dismissed from my charge as many of my planning times are at the end of the day. Thank you!

Language Arts

We have been discussing a new writing trait this week: organization. Our focus has been on writing leads. Here are the questions writers need to ask themselves as they write to introduce a piece of writing.

Think About of Organization:

Creating Leads

- Did I give the reader something interesting to think about right from the start?
- Will the reader want to keep reading?
- Have I tried to get the reader's attention?
- Did I let the reader know what is coming?

As you read through the Sunday paper this weekend, challenge your student to find examples of some really good leads!

Students in all spelling groups have added paragraph writing, editing, and revising to their word study tasks each week. This component will encourage practice and improvement in the area of conventions, as well as provide a platform to test out other writing trait skills such as focusing ideas and being organized.

Math

We are working on our third and final Investigation for Unit: 4 – What's That Portion?, which we will finish up in the next two weeks.

Investigation Focus Points:

- Finding fractional parts of the rotation around a circle (i.e. a clock)
- Adding fractions by using a rotation model
- Adding and subtracting fractions through reasoning about fraction equivalents and relationships
- Finding combinations of fractions with sums between 0 and 2
- Adding and subtracting fractions by using a number line

Science

Theme: Force & Motion

Students have begun to study the world of force and motion in science class. Our field trip to Leddy Park was a lot of fun and we were able to bring back lots of video footage that we will continue to work with throughout your time in this unit to create force and motion movies.

This unit is dubbed an Inquiry Unit according to our district curriculum. All students will be asking questions, making hypotheses, performing experiments, creating data tables, and drawing conclusions about lots of topics related to this unit of study. In addition to our in class work and assessments, students have a unique opportunity to go above and beyond the expectation for 5th grade by participating in Browns River Middle School's Science Fair happening in March. Here are some brief details below to start thinking about. More information will follow both from me and from the Science Fair Committee itself about how to participate, the requirements/expectations for projects, and the like. This is a great way to incorporate student interest into a unit of study from school. It proves to be a fun and rewarding experience.

From Science Committee member, Jeff Warren:

Here are some important points regarding the fair and some dates that the Science Fair Committee will meet with students

- 1. The actual fair will be here at BRMS on March 18th**
 - Students will 'present' projects on tables with 3-sided poster board
 - Students will have projects displayed around the school during the day
 - The official presentation of the experiment will take place that evening
- 2. Projects will be judged**
 - Awards will be given out (e.g., \$, prizes)
 - Participants will be recognized
- 3. Kids have the opportunity to present at the Vermont State Science Fair on April 2nd**
- 4. A representative from State of Vermont will present after school on January 19th**
 - This will be a kick-off meeting
 - Get kids excited
 - Provide information packets
 - Give expectations
 - Start talking about projects
- 5. The committee will meet as a club on the following dates:**
 - 1/26, 2/9, 2/16, 3/9
 - We will invite parents in and use this time to brainstorm, test ideas and even use the lab as a facility to get projects started

Social Studies

Theme: Indigenous Studies

Students have presented their first indigenous studies project to the class. We had several culture poems, dioramas, artifact museums, and power point presentations.

The second project on their indigenous group is due Wednesday, January 12. Students will have Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in class to work on projects.

Students will be scored cumulatively once all projects are complete.

Have a great weekend!

Culture Poems from our student writers

By Evan.

**Customs and beliefs of the Iroquois
Using beads to make jewelry
Language
The gods/spirits
Using natural resources
Religion
Everything they believe**

By Abi

Culture

**The things we do today
Like listen to music and play
This is our culture**

**The things they did back then
Like kill a deer or maybe ten
That was their culture**

**The things they did back then
and we still do today
Like ride horses and feed them hay
We share that culture**

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