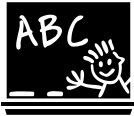


Team Fusion News

January 28, 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!!

Trimester 2 Book Project: *Travel Brochure*

For students' next book project, they will produce a travel brochure. The brochure will be all about the setting of their book, and will include lots of informational details, pictures, and maps that highlight the time and place of the story they read. A description of the project requirements and a copy of the scoring rubric have been attached.

Language Arts

This week we began a whole-group literature circle with the book, Sing Down the Moon by Scott O'Dell. It is an historical fiction tale about a young Navajo girl who experiences some of the cultural conflict we have learned about in our social studies unit between her people, the Spaniards, and the Europeans who have come to settle in the North American southwest region.

Students learned six Patterned Partner reading styles which they will employ as they read selections of the text with a partner and complete role sheets in preparation of a literature circle discussion of the story. I have also introduced a pre-reading technique called Story Impressions where students look at a set of key words from the text and form a written impression of the story using

the key words in the order they appear on the list based on their knowledge of the characters, setting, problem, events, and solutions they have encountered so far. Students check back with their impression following their reading to compare their predictions.

We will use this text as we explore writing a Response to Literature, a more formal writing style than the brief book review writing students have engaged in this year. We will study benchmarked Response to Literature pieces and write a class response of Sing Down the Moon as a practice piece. Book Reviews will change to Responses to Literature pieces for Trimester 3!

Math

We have moved onto a new math Investigation on decimals. Unit 6 is called Decimals on Grids and Number Lines.

Investigation Focus Points:

- Identifying everyday uses of fractions and decimals
- Representing decimal fractions as parts of an area (on a grid)
- Reading and writing tenths, hundredths, and thousandths
- Identifying decimal, fraction, and percent equivalents
- Representing decimals by using a number line
- Interpreting fractions as division
- Interpreting the meaning of digits in a decimal number
- Ordering decimals and justifying their order through reasoning about decimal representations, equivalents, and relationships
- Comparing decimals to the landmarks 0, $\frac{1}{2}$, and 1
- Estimating sums of decimal numbers

- Using representations to add tenths, hundredths, and thousandths
- Adding decimals to the thousandths through reasoning about place value, equivalents, and representations

Please try to incorporate math talk into your conversations with your child. Cooking together is a great way to talk about fractions. Money is a great way to talk about decimals. When playing games, make your child be the score keeper. Math does not always have to be dry and repetitive. Students need lots of opportunities to practice using the skills and concepts they are learning about at school.

Science

Theme: Force & Motion

Keep studying those science vocabulary and concept guides. There will be a quiz on Monday which will cover all the content on this guide.

Some students chose to check out a set of study cards from our classroom. Students can create their own cards by writing the concept or vocabulary on one card and the description or definition on another card. Then they can shuffle them all up and try to match them back up, using their study guide as an answer key.

BRMS Science Fair information sheet attached. Interested students can get support after school from the science fair committee on the following dates: 1/26, 2/9, 2/16, 3/9

Social Studies

Theme: Indigenous Studies

Students continue to work really hard on completing their Indigenous Studies projects on their Native American cultures.

We will use some of our Social Studies time together to continue reading and discussing aspects of culture from our Literature Circle text, Sing Down the Moon.

Students will be scored cumulatively once all projects are complete.

Have a great weekend!