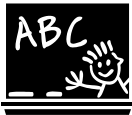


Team Fusion News

April 8, 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!!

Final Book Review & Projects

There are options!!!! Read carefully below!

Option 1: Book Review & Book Project

The last book review of the year will be due on Friday, May 6. This is a shift in the original book review schedule. The last book project will be due Friday, June 3. Students may choose their own project to represent a book for the last trimester and will be scored on their ability to represent their thoughtful reactions, connections, and comprehension of the text through creativity and organization. Please note that the book review and the book project will be on two separate books, **not including Book Club books!**

Option 2: Response to Literature

Students who wish submit one formal written Response to Literature on a book of their choosing (**including** the book they are currently reading for their Book Club). I can provide prewriting graphic organizers like we used here at school to compose Response to Literature pieces on a text we read in class. Students will be scored using our district writing rubric. Responses to Literature will be due on Friday, May 20.

Students should be ready to commit to one option by Monday, April 11.

Math: Connected Math Program² (CMP)

We have switched gears in math class! We are currently using the Connected Math Program, otherwise known as CMP. Our first CMP unit is called Shapes and Designs and focuses on two-dimensional geometry. Students are getting used to working from a textbook rather than a workbook and have shown great organization in this transition. You will see references to ACE in the assignments I send home for homework. This acronym stands for Applications, Connections, and Extensions. Assignments will typically be made up of selected problems from each of these sections. There is a website that has many resources for students and parents put out by the publisher of CMP, Prentice Hall. You'll find interactive activities, homework tips (sometimes very specific to individual problems), and other information at www.phschool.com. Your child knows where to find the web codes that will lead him or her to specific locations on this website. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask!

Audubon Field Trip

Team Fusion will be heading to the Green Mountain Audubon Center on Thursday, May 12. We will be gone for the day for a workshop on Forest Bird Habitats. The cost for the trip is \$8 per student. Chaperones are needed. All the necessary information was sent home with students on a blue permission slip form. Please send these slips and money back to school as soon as possible! Thanks.

This trip ties in with our units of study on Ecosystems which we are focusing on now, and our exploration of Natural Resources which we have studied in conjunction with our indigenous culture and geography units in social studies, and that we will look into more in science as we wrap up the year.

Social Studies

It was great to have so many of you join us for our Indigenous Culture celebration. It truly was a celebration of all the hard work that students put in building wonderful projects on the cultures they researched.

We have moved into our last social studies focus: Explorers. Students have been given background on 21 explorers that contributed to the Age of Discovery. They are taking on the role as researcher once again as they find out more on explorers that interest them and their team. They will be completing a group project called Message in a Bottle where they will write a letter from the perspective of an explorer, home to his sponsoring country describing his discoveries and encounters with indigenous people. They will have to draw pictures of what they “saw” and include a map of where they went. These projects will be displayed at school.

Students are also working on an independent research project related to the theme of exploration. This assignment is called I-Search (the I in I-search stands for individual). Students have chosen a topic and written 10 questions they want answers to related to that topic. They will take notes on their subject and create a project that will be presented to the class in May. Some of the topics that have been chosen are: Ships, navigational devices, scurvy, GPS, women explorers, Neil Armstrong, The Seven Cities of Gold, The Fountain of Youth, Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI), and more!

Have a great weekend!