

MATH:

-CHAPTER 6: Fractions and Mixed Numbers

READING:

-Guided Reading Groups

LANGUAGE ARTS

- Writing Shares

SCIENCE:

-began weathering and erosion unit

FYI FOR NEXT WEEK:

we will resume spelling (lesson 9) and vocabulary (lesson 5)

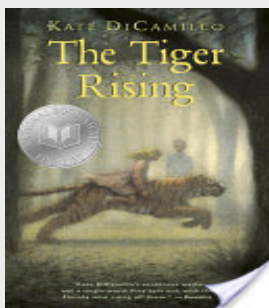


December 10, 2015

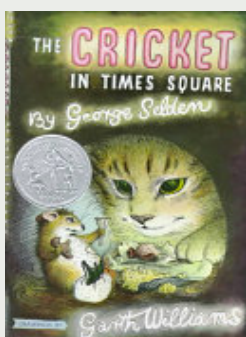
Ms. Giss & Mrs. Daftari's Fabulous
4TH GRADE! 😊

Guided Reading Groups

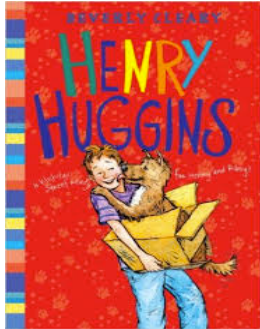
This week teachers and students were excited to begin a round of guided reading groups. Students are broken up into groups and paired with a novel that is close to their guided reading level. The novel is read under the guidance of a teacher who helps the students focus on key literary elements and character analysis. Teachers model active reading strategies and students can mark up their texts as they read, as the books are theirs to keep. On any given day, students might be reading some of their novel independently, answering comprehension questions about their novel, reading their novel out loud in their group, or discussing the novel. Below is a description of each book. Enjoy!



Rob Thorton has recently moved to a new town with his dad. He has a vicious rash on his legs, his mom passed away, and he is being bullied at school. Things are not ideal until he meets another new friend in town and finds a lone caged tiger in the woods. Together, these elements help Rob confront some of his own emotions about his life. Students are currently struck by the parallels they are drawing between this book and Kate DiCamillo's first book, *Because of Winn Dixie*.



This is the story of a boy, a cricket, a mouse, and a cat living in Times Square in NYC. Mario, the boy is elated to discover Chester, a cricket with a unique musical talent and wants to keep him. The characters are delightful and the story keeps the reader in suspense. It is an award winning book that children tend to remember for years to come.



A classic that has been around for 65 years, continues to delight students. This is the story of a twelve-year old boy whose life is rather ordinary until one day when he stumbles upon a dog. He adopts “Ribsy” and suddenly life becomes way more exciting. The story is humorous and endearing and is as accessible as all Beverly Cleary’s realistic fiction novels. Students are enjoying it already.

UPCOMING TESTS/IMPORTANT DATES:

NO SCHOOL FRI DEC 11/MON DEC 14:
CHANUKAH BREAK

SPELLING TEST LESSON 8:
FRI. DEC. 18TH

WORDLY WISE LESSON 5
TEST: THURS. DEC. 24TH

MONTHLY CALENDAR POSTED
ON OUR HOMEPAGE

MATH

This week students got back their Chapter 3 math test. We were impressed and pleased with their ability to approach the word problems using bar models, even if they were not able to solve their problems to completion or with the precise answer. Their growth has been in their ability to approach the problems and to represent the problem with bar models. Please review their work as well as our corrections and feedback.

This week we began **Chapter 6: Fractions and Mixed Numbers**. Students made their own set of fraction strips to use as a concrete manipulative throughout the chapter. The strips are particularly useful when they are trying to visualize equivalent fractions and to convert fractions to their simplest form.

Students are adding and subtracting unlike fractions by finding a common denominator, converting one of the fractions to that denominator, and simplifying their result. Some are finding this multi-step process challenging and we will continue to work on it. As always you can find extra practice pages on our website and we have now posted an answer key to those pages as well.

MATH cont....

Next week we will continue this work as well as introduce mixed numbers and improper fractions.

IXL: sections Q, R, and S all apply.

Remember that clicking on the Khan Academy link on our math page, will lead you and your children to helpful fraction tutorial videos.

SCIENCE

We are excited to have begun a science unit on weathering and erosion. We kicked off the unit by showing a Brainpop Jr. video on the topic. Students were fascinated to learn about how our earth changes over time. The video was an excellent overview and reinforced the concepts we encountered in our science textbook. Students partook in a lesson on how to effectively use a highlighter to attack nonfiction text. We also introduced text features like the vocabulary inset and reading skill inserts that are included on the pages. Students learned about the importance of reading captions and examining photos when deconstructing a lesson in a textbook. Students then practiced their sequencing skills by ordering the natural events of the weathering/erosion process. We are looking forward to a hands-on science lab on weathering and erosion in the weeks to come.