

MATH:

-Chapter 6- Fractions & Mixed Numbers

LANGUAGE ARTS:

-Wordly Wise- Lesson 7
-Spelling Lesson #11

READING:

-Guided Reading Groups

SOCIAL STUDIES:

-map skills
-map quiz



Jan. 15, 2016

Ms. Giss & Mrs. Daftari's *mindful* fourth grade. 😊

PLEASE BE SURE TO VISIT OUR CLASS WEBSITE for current photos, important links and other important information:
daftari-giss.weebly.com

MATH

This week students tackled word problems involving fractions. The problems require them to use the skills from the first part of the chapter (converting improper fractions to mixed numbers, and vice versa, adding and subtracting unlike fractions, and finding fractions of a set using multiplication and division) to solve problems. We have been encouraging students to draw bar models as they help clarify what needs to be solved in a clear and visual way. **The models help break the problem down into its component parts and reveal what information needs to be found.** The challenge for many students has been in deciphering what operation to use to solve the problem. Once we got them started on a particular challenging problem, they actually enjoyed the challenge of solving to completion. The amount of skills they have acquired with regards to fractions is impressive. At the same time, some students have expressed that it has been difficult to keep all of the mathematics in their heads at once. Part 2 of the chapter 6 quiz is this coming Wednesday. The quiz is a collection of word problems. We anticipate that students will find this part more challenging than part 1, as the application of the skills always requires higher-level thinking. To best prepare the students, we will provide them with word problems from the extra practice pages to work on at school and at home next week.



UPCOMING TESTS/IMPORTANT DATES:

-Please see a copy of our January calendar on our website.

-Math quiz part 2, Wed, Jan 20th

-WW test #7, Thursday, Jan 21st

* If you know your child will be absent, they should be prepared to take this test on Wed, the 20th

-NO school Friday, Jan 22nd winter break

READING

This week some students enjoyed using the Trading Card app they were exposed to in Rabbi Hametz' class to create trading cards for some of the fictional characters in their guided reading book. The task at hand is to be able to capture the essence of a character on the front and back of a card. They are enjoying the work and doing a good job.

We also discussed the difference between major and minor characters and the supporting roles of minor characters and why they are important.

Students reading The Tiger Rising reviewed the concept of the story arc and are discussing where they think they are in the novel- the rising action? the climax? the falling action? We are also beginning to touch on theme- the messages about central concepts the author is trying to convey with the book, and even symbols- for example Kate DiCamillo's use of a tiger to represent freedom. Students are engaged and they are enjoying "unpacking" their novels during groups.

Social Studies

This week students practiced their mapping skills on two different maps- Olde Albion and Joshua Tree National Park. They were required to study the map key and its symbols to gain information so they could then find places and answer questions about the map. They had a lot of fun working on both maps connecting different places in colored pencil.

We continued reviewing the CA map and all pertinent information they would be quizzed on. Students were encouraged to bring home a blank copy of a CA map so they could test their own knowledge. We were quite pleased with how well students did on the quiz!