

## MATH:

- Chapter 11- *Squares and Rectangles*- **TEST THIS TUESDAY MAY 10TH**

## READING:

- Island of the Blue Dolphins

- PIE by Sarah Weeks

## LANGUAGE ARTS:

-ERB test prep

## SOCIAL

## STUDIES/WRITING:

- Mission Research Paper  
Source Citations & Final Copy



**MAY 6, 2016**

Ms. Giss and Mrs. Daftari's Accomplished  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade

### CHECK OUT OUR ONLINE DISCUSSION FORUM FOR THE FAMILY READ!

All week students have been posting replies to questions on our online forum. Some students have been inspired to initiate questions of their own! Parents- please chime into the conversation replying to your own children's posts and/or to others once you have caught up on your reading! We would all really enjoy seeing you in cyberspace and engaging around the book in that way!

<http://daftari-giss.weebly.com/family-read-discussion-page/april-10th-2016#comments>

### Social Studies/Reading/Writing

Students are proud of their accomplishments. This week they learned how to properly cite sources to give credit to the authors they used in their research. Students are in the process of copying or typing their rough drafts into final copies. They are adding a cover page and all of the work that lead up to the final product. This was an important and involved experience both in acquiring further research skills and in learning about California history in greater depth. Thank you for your support! The final copy of the report which includes the source citation page, the typed cover, and all of the rough draft paperwork is due this coming Tuesday.

### MATH

This week we wrapped up Chapter 11: Squares and Rectangles. Students learned about the properties of squares and rectangles in Lesson 11.1. In Lesson 11.2 they applied their knowledge of the properties (particularly the properties of having four right angles and opposite sides that are equal), to find missing angle measures and missing side measures of complex figures. To solve for missing side measures, students often need to visualize and divide a complex figure into separate squares and rectangles. The chapter test is this coming Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. The problems require deductive reasoning. Extra practice pages are available on our website for study and review.



## UPCOMING TESTS/IMPORTANT DATES:

- TUES. MAY 10<sup>TH</sup>: MATH TEST  
CHAPTER 11
- TUES. MAY 10<sup>TH</sup>: MISSION PAPER  
FINAL COPY DUE
- NO SPELLING OR WORDLY WISE  
THIS MONTH
- ERB'S: May 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>: Please arrive  
by 8:10
- -WED. MAY 25<sup>TH</sup>: field trip to VT  
Ranch!
- 1:40 DISMISSAL MAY 17<sup>TH</sup>: PTC

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup> AT 6:30PM**  
**FAMILY READ EVENT**

## READING

**Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O Dell:** The spring brings plenty of flowers all over the island. There are birds everywhere, including a pair with "a yellow body and a scarlet head" that build a nest in the yucca bush near Karana's house. The pair of birds give birth to gray babies. Karana puts them in a little birdhouse cage so that they stay with her once all the birds fly to the north later in the season. Once they outgrow their cage, she clips their wings and lets them loose inside her house. She names them Tainor, after a boy she liked that the Aleuts killed and Lurai, as this was the name she wished she had been called.

This week, students have been making incredible connections between Island of the Blue Dolphins and our social studies unit on the California missions. They have become well versed at expressing their thoughts and ideas and have been taking thoughtful, gorgeous notes in their reading response journals. In addition, students have been having rich, meaningful discussions with their classmates about their interpretation of text features, questions they have that might not have been answered by the text, and their opinions. They are really enjoying the book!

## READING cont. . .

**PIE by Sarah Weeks:** What a joy it has been to see both the student and parent excitement around this effort. Thank you for all of the positive feedback emails, willingness to participate, and support! We know how busy you all are and your participation is greatly appreciated. We are confident that this will be a unique and "sweet" experience for all of us.

Before students began their books, we read most of the first chapter to them. We wanted to help set the scene, pique their interest, and point out the use of flashbacks and figurative language in the book. Sarah Weeks writes descriptively and we want students (and you!) to look out for examples of that.

Later on in the week, we defined similes (a comparison using the words "like" or "as") and idioms (a phrase where the words mean something different than their ordinary meaning) and brought some examples from the book. Students are being encouraged to hunt for similes and idioms while they read, mark them up, and post them on our class charts. If you are reading along with your child feel free to hunt for those and discuss them together!

As mentioned above, please enjoy the student posts on the online forum and add a post of your own!