

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Hello everyone and I hope everyone enjoyed their weekend! Last week was a good week for our 3rd grade. I believe they are stepping up to the plate and holding themselves to a higher standard, which is so great to see. Last week we did have to remind them of their noise level in group activities and keep a few on task. That said, the classroom will stay at a high level of progress and efficiency, and the students are making that happen. I am very proud of our students!

If you have tried to check grades on Infinite Campus recently, you have noticed that there are no grades entered for second semester. The program seems to be having issues that we have not yet been able to work through. Mrs. Erker and the district have been working hard to help us with this. Until it is working, we will record grades in an old fashioned hard copy grade book so that we may continue sending graded work home.

Valentine parties will be Friday, February 10 at 2:45 p.m. Look for a sign-up sheet for goodies outside the classroom door this week. Please remember to have your child bring a decorated box or bag that day to collect valentines. There will be a creativity contest for these.

Reading - We will continue our novel groups this week. Group 3 will be finishing their books and working on book projects. Please continue to work with your child's reading summaries because we feel that summaries as a whole are too choppy, and students are putting their notes into sentences and not expanding on their notes. We will move on from just a list of notes to having the students write a few sentences when the groups read, turning those sentences into a summary. If anyone has trouble with this at home, please let us know so we can further help them in class.

Math - We will continue with Saxon lessons 57-60 this week, with a Saxon assessment on Friday. The lessons will concentrate on finding area of rectangles and a few irregular shapes, subtracting 2 digit numbers using mental computation, and solving "larger, smaller, and difference" story problems. We will review lessons from last week to further implement the new skills that the students need to master.

History - We will have the quiz for the southern colonies on Tuesday to start off the week. Then we are going start the New England Colonies in the Thirteen American colonies unit. We will continue with sentences to the answers we go over in class. On Wednesday through Friday we will have sentences for homework, so look for those as well. We will be

adding a few things to the map this week, so make sure they have them in class to complete.

Science - We will continue the unit on the ear and sound. Last week we focused on sound waves and how they are created. This week the focus will be on how the sound enters the ear and what happens inside the head for a complete view of the process on how we hear and decipher sound. Look for handouts that go over these topics. We also postponed our sound walk until later this week.

Writing - This week we will review burrito summaries some more for current events. The class wanted to practice on them more before doing them in the homework packets. As a result, students will begin to write them independently in homework packets next week.

Spelling - We will have two new lists this week: 59 and 60. The tests for this week will be list 57 on Thursday and 58 Friday. Definitions and sentences will be completed independently in cursive. The students have done extremely well in finding and writing the definitions for the new words. When they focus during the time given, I believe all of our students can finish this in class. That will be an opportunity for them to have less homework during the week.

I hope this gives you a good idea on what we are doing this week. If you have questions or concerns about anything, please feel free to contact me or Mrs. Cole anytime. My work email has been having issues so you may use my other email which is nickprock@gmail.com. Go ahead and try my re3j.com email first, but if you want to make sure I get your emails, please send it to both. Thank you for your continued support and assistance! We appreciate you so much!

Educationally yours,

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