

Tuesday, January 31, 2012

Hello, Everyone. I hope you all enjoyed your weekend! We have a short week ahead of us, as there is no school for students on Friday due to a teacher inservice. Therefore, there will be no Homework Packets this week. Current events will be completed in class.

After a rough start last week, we did a review of our rules and expectations both in and out of the classroom. We did that review on Friday, and I have to say that the rest of the day was the best I have seen this class with me all year. I want everyone's goal to be making this coming week full of days like the one we had on Friday.

Grades on Infinite Campus SHOULD be updated now. You may have to scroll to the bottom of the page in order to see semester 2 grades. There might still be problems, so if you can't see something or if you believe something is missing, please let Mrs. Cole or me know as soon as possible.

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 containers.

Reading - Novel groups will continue to be the focus this week. Group 3 projects are due Tuesday, and the group will be starting a new book on Tuesday as well. Thank you for all of the time and effort you put in helping your children with reading summaries. They are really coming along! I do love the effort that most of the students are putting into these summaries. They really want to get better at the summaries, which so great to see!

Math - We will complete Saxon lessons 60 and 61 this week. The lessons will concentrate on making, drawing, labeling, and writing number sentences for arrays on making an array for a number sentence and finding the missing dimension of an array. The assessment that was supposed to be done last Friday will be completed this Thursday. If time remains we will review concepts that have been difficult for our 3rd graders to grasp.

History - We will continue our study of the New England Colonies this week. We have two lessons left for the New England Colonies. Those lessons will have sentences for homework. We will be adding a few things to the map this week, so make sure students have their maps in class to complete. On Thursday, we will have a review of all lessons pertaining to New England Colonies. There will be a study guide that will go home on Tuesday so your child can study for the quiz that will be next Tuesday, February 7. I encourage all students to study over the weekend because we want to keep that information fresh in their minds for the quiz.

Science - Our sound walk was planned for last Friday, but it snowed. It will happen this Wednesday, and I can't wait because all of the students are so excited to do it. Students will be asked to write about all of the sounds they hear on our walk. Last week we focused on how the sound waves enter the ear and what happens inside the head for a complete view of the process on how we hear and decipher sound. This week we will wrap up the unit on the ear and sound with our sound walk and a learning diagram. Ask your child about our drawings!

Writing - This week we will review parts of speech learned in Shurley English, including subject noun, verb, adjective, adverb, article adjective, preposition, and object of the preposition. We will classify sentences together and write sentences based on a Pattern 1 learned in Shurley. Students will also choose their own news article from a kid-friendly website and complete a burrito outline and summary in class. If students do not have these summaries finished by the end of the day on Wednesday, they will need to bring them home to finish by Thursday. Next week, when we have Homework Packets again, students will write these independently at home. The recommendation is to do them over the weekend and have them ready when packets come home on Tuesday. However, the summaries will be due every Friday with the packets.

Spelling - Because of the shortened week, we will have one new list this week: list 62. The tests for this week will be list 59 on Wednesday and 60 on Thursday. 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 have seen some complete this assignment. This is exactly what I am looking for. It gives them less homework, and it makes them so productive in class. I am so proud of all their hard work in this subject.

Third grade will take the Reading TCAP (formerly CSAP) assessment at the end of February. We are very excited for our students to demonstrate their skills in reading. We will be reviewing some test taking skills with students in order to alleviate any anxieties they may be having. We want students to take the test seriously and give their best effort, but we do not want them to panic. Please help us support your children by remaining positive about this assessment and by making sure they are eating healthfully and getting plenty of rest leading up to the assessment dates.

I hope this gives you a good idea about 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 is back on track now so you may use either work or my other email, which is nickprock@gmail.com. If you want to make sure I get your emails, please send it to both. Thank you for your continued support and hard work. You, too, make such a positive impact on our school!

Educationally yours,

Nick Perakos nickperakos@re3j.com

Lisa Cole lisacole@re3j.com

303-732-9312

303-944-4195