

February 3rd, 2015

Volume 4, Issue 6

Ms. Drummer's Monthly Dish

Mark Your Calendar

2/3: January Pizza Hut Book-IT Reading Calendar Due

2/9: National African American Parent involvement Day; ALL DAY

2/11: Count Day

2/12: Leo's Coney Island Fundraiser; 4pm-8pm (Ms. Drummer will be serving from 5pm-6pm)

2/13: Class Friendship Party; 2:00-3:30

2/13: Mid-Winter Break begins at the end of the day

2/23: School resumes

3/9: No school; Teacher report card writing day

3/17: Winter report cards go home

Dear Families, **From Ms. Drummer's Desk**

I would like to recognize the Carpenter Cougars from our classroom who participated in our Science and Special Interest Fair, Rosa, Faith, Kellen, and Alex! If your child did not participate please encourage him or her to consider participating next year in fifth grade! All of the projects were awesome and our class really enjoyed viewing them all!!

Thank you to all of the families who participated in the Marco's Pizza Night Fundraiser last month. Our class participation helped us tie with Mr. Slay's fifth grade class to receive a free pizza party for the most pizzas ordered!! ☺

We have completed the second cycle of the NWEA Testing. As I shared in last month's newsletter students took the test in the subjects of math and reading.

Friday, February 13th at 2:00-3:30 we will have our Class Friendship Party!! Our room parents Mrs. Francis and Mrs. Powell have already created a fun filled agenda for the class! **We will need parents to donate specific items for the party.** A sign up link will be sent out to our class email group for parents to sign up for specific items to contribute for the class party. If you have any questions about the party donations you can also email our room parents at crystal.francis98@gmail.com and sstrong30@gmail.com

Today your child will bring home a class list. If your child chooses to bring in Valentine's Day cards, he or she must bring in a card for each child in our class. If you have any comments, questions, and or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please make sure that your child is dressed very warmly for the weather

We want to ensure that all students remain safe and healthy!

Our class website is up and running! A **HUGE "THANK YOU!"** to Kellen's mom Mrs. Johnson for working so hard behind the scene to help me create the class website. You can go to the site from our school page and click on the link or you can go directly to

<http://msdrummer.weebly.com>
Please visit the site!! I hope that you will find it easy to navigate and most importantly helpful. In an effort to be more green I will only send a hard copy of the newsletter home to families who have requested hard copies. All future newsletters will be posted on the class website.

It is imperative that you check your child's Weekly Homework Assignment Sheet and their Homework Folder daily. Please sign your child's Homework Assignment Sheet after you have seen their completed homework and please remind him or her to return all of their homework to school on the appropriate due date.

Lastly, I would like to personally invite **all parents and guardians to NAAPID at Carpenter next Monday, February 9th**. There are activities planned in the morning in afternoon to accommodate different schedules. I look forward to seeing you!!

As always if you have any questions, comments, and or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Educationally yours,

Ms. Drummer

drummerLa@aaps.k12.mi.us

Curriculum Highlights



The Book Nook This week during Reading Workshop we will continue with our guided reading groups. All groups are reading nonfiction informational books! We have spent a considerable amount of time learning about text features and discussing how each feature helps us as readers. We have learned about the table of contents, headings, the glossary, maps, bold print, tables, diagrams, fact boxes, captions, and photographs. We have also started working on identifying the main idea and details in a chapter. Next, we will begin learning about different nonfiction text structures some of which include cause and effect, problem and solution, and compare and contrast!

To go along with our school theme of peace, our class read the book Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes by Eleanor Coerr. We have discussed how authors write books around a central theme, and we have reflected on the theme of courage illustrated in the novel. Students wrote Reading Response Letters sharing some of their final thoughts about the book. Please ask your child to tell you a little about Sadako if he or she has not done so already. Our class really enjoyed reading this biography!

Please encourage your child to read both fiction (realistic fiction, science fiction, historical fiction, fantasy) and nonfiction (informational, biography, autobiography) texts at home and at school. All students are required to read for at least **20 minutes** each night.

Our reading Pizza Hut Book-It Reading Goal for this month is 400 minutes! Please encourage your child to track their nightly reading on the Reading Calendar each month! The program runs through March. Let's continue to aim for 100% participation for 2015!



The Pencil Is Mightier Last week students worked on writing the conclusion for their informational article. Students wrote a rough draft for their article that included their introduction, three body paragraphs, and conclusion. This week students will brainstorm three possible titles for their articles, and use checklists to self-revise and self-edit their drafts. Students will then be moving on to the final stage of the writing process by publishing their final draft!

For our next writing project students will be researching an African American. Students will read books, and use online resources in the media center to gather information about their subject to help them write a biography. Students will learn about the childhood/early life, obstacles, accomplishments, and contributions of their African American. This is always an exciting writing project that we celebrate with an African American Wax Museum!!

"Once children learn how to learn, nothing is going to narrow their mind. The essence of teaching is to make learning contagious, to have one idea spark another."

-Marva Collins

It All Adds Up



In our Everyday Math curriculum we have completed unit 5 and last week we started unit 6. You should have received a copy of the Unit 6 Family Letter. In this unit we will focus on using the partial quotients algorithm to solve long division problems. For students to further explore the relationship between division and multiplication students are working on checking their division problems by using partial products. If you have questions about using these algorithms please visit everdaymathonline.com using your child's login information and password. There are several animated videos that model both algorithms that are being taught in class.

In unit 6 we will also learn about the properties of acute, obtuse, right, straight, and reflex angles. Students will learn how to use a protractor to measure and draw angles.

Please encourage your child to practice their math facts daily. Quick recall of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts is imperative as we continue to progress through the remainder of our math curriculum and it is a skill that all students will need in the real world.



The World Around Us In science we have started our matter science unit. In our first couple of lessons students have been classifying materials in the real world as solids, liquids, and gases and learning about the properties of the three states of matter. Students investigated some of the properties of the three states by using different tools such as spoons, cups, and magnifying lenses. This week students will carry out their own hands on exploration by weighing and re-weighing solids formed into different shapes, and water in different shaped containers to investigate whether shape affects weight.

In social studies we have completed our Southeast region geography challenge, and now we are in the midst of learning about the historic and important landmarks in the Southeast region. As we transition into chapter 7 students will begin learning about how geography affects life in the Southeast region.

February Birthdays!

- Faith 2/21
- Kianna 2/22
- Jessica 2/26





