

January 5th, 2015

Volume 4, Issue 5

Ms. Drummer's Monthly Dish

Mark Your Calendar

1/5: December Pizza Hut Book-IT Reading Calendar Due

1/6: NWEA Reading Test; 1pm-3pm

1/13: PTO Meeting; 6:30pm

1/14: Pizza Night Fundraiser (Marco's Pizza)

1/15: Science & Special Interest Fair

1/16: Dr. MLK Assembly; 2:45pm-3:30pm

1/19: MLK Day- No School

1/23: NWEA Math Test; 10am-12pm

1/26: No School; Teacher Professional Development Day

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

Happy New Year to all!! I would like to thank all of the families who expressed generous gifts of kindness prior to winter vacation. I greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness! It's great to be back at school with the students and I'm looking forward to the remainder of the school year. This week we will spend time reviewing expectations and routines!

The students that completed their math review packets over the winter break will be able to select items from the Prize Box! I appreciate those of you who are attentive and remain active in ensuring that your child is completing and returning his/her work regularly.

Students who returned their December Pizza Hut Book-It Reading Calendar today will receive their certificate for a free personal pizza! Please encourage your child to track their nightly reading on their calendar.

This month our class will take the NWEA Test. Tomorrow our class will take the reading portion of the test. On the 23rd of this month we are scheduled to take the math portion of the NWEA Test. Please encourage your child to do his/her personal best!

I am very excited to welcome some new faces to our classroom this semester! We will have two first year interns from the U of M Teacher Education Program learning and assisting in our class. They will be in our classroom every Tuesday afternoon and Thursday morning until mid-April!

A **HUGE** "Thank you!" to our Room Parents Mrs. Francis, and Mrs. Strong for volunteering their time to organize our Winter Celebration before winter break! We had a great time, and it was nice to have other parents attend the party and help out as well!

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/her to return all of their homework to school on the appropriate due date.

If you are ever unclear about the assignment, then please do not hesitate to contact me. It is also important to encourage your child to complete quality work. That means taking the time to write neatly, and complete the entire assignment to the best of their ability. Homework teaches students responsibility, time management, and commitment. Making sure that your child completes their homework helps them in and outside the classroom.

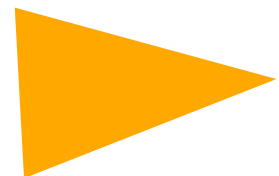
It is almost hard to imagine that we are already half way through the school year! We still have a lot of hard work ahead, so your continued support and involvement is greatly needed and appreciated.

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

Educationally yours,

Ms. Drummer

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Curriculum Highlights



The Book Nook This week during Reading Workshop we will continue with our guided reading groups. Over the next several weeks we will be working on summarizing, and identifying the main idea and supporting details in the chapters that we read in our nonfiction books. We will also continue to review text features and discuss how each particular text feature helps us as “readers.” Students will also begin working on identifying text structure within nonfiction books. Students will continue to write their weekly reading response letters based upon the “just right” reading books that they are reading independently.

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 350 minutes! Please encourage students to track their nightly reading on the Reading Calendar each month! The program runs through March. Let’s aim for 100% participation for 2015!



The Pencil Is Mightier We will continue to work on our informational articles! Each student has selected a topic that they feel they are knowledgeable about. Students have selected three main ideas for their articles, and this week we will begin drafting the body paragraphs with topic sentences, and supporting detail sentences for each body paragraph. Next, we will begin writing strong leads and powerful endings for our articles before revising, and editing our drafts. Student will use a checklist to self edit their writing before publishing their final draft.



Sum News This week we will continue with Unit 5 Big Numbers, Estimation, and Computation in our Everyday Mathematics curriculum. Before winter break we spent time in class practicing our fluency with extended multiplication facts. Students practiced this skill by playing the game *Beat the Calculator*. The students also learned how to play the math game *Multiplication Wrestling* that is an introduction/review of the partial products algorithm that we will be learning/reviewing this week. We will spend time in class learning how to multiply multi-digit numbers using the partial products algorithm. Students will first estimate the product before using computation. We will also review comparing and ordering large numbers. Students will take the Unit 5 Math Test next week!

“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

Please utilize everdaymathonline.com. Each student has been provided his or her login information and password. I have taped this information inside of their Homework Folder. The directions were included in your Curriculum Night Parent Folder on how to access eSuite on everydaymathonline.com. Students can practice their fact fluency, play math games, and access the student reference book to assist with homework. In addition, there are online animations that model how to use math algorithms taught in the math curriculum.

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



The World Around Us In science we will begin our Matter unit! Today your child will bring home the Family Letter that describes some of what we will be doing and learning during the unit. Our first few lessons will provide students with the opportunity to identify objects as solids, liquids, and gases and begin defining some of the common properties of each state of matter. Their science homework assignment for tonight will ask them to classify materials in their refrigerator as a solid, liquid, gas, or a combination. Next week students will explore an assortment of solids, liquids, and gases using a variety of tools as they compare the properties of solids, liquids, and gases! We will then begin to explore weight, which we often use to measure how much matter is in an object. Students will carry out their own hands on exploration by weighing and re-weighing solids formed into different shapes, and water in different shapes of containers.

In social studies we have completed our exploration of the Northeast region. We concluded our study of the Northeast region by learning about the population density in the Northeast, and life in the urban and rural parts of the Northeast region. This week we will begin learning about the Southeast region. Over the next couple of weeks we will learn about some of the factors that have shaped the culture of the Southeast region.

January Birthday!

- LaNisha 1/28





