

November 24th, 2014

Volume 6, Issue 3

Ms. Drummer's Monthly Dish

From Ms. Drummer's Desk

Dates to Remember

11/24: Report
Cards go home
with students

11/26-11/28:
Thanksgiving
Break

12/1-12/3:
**Scholastic Book
Fair!**

**12/3: Scholastic
Book Fair
Family Night
Event; 5p-7p**

12/1: November
Pizza Hut Book-It
Reading Log
Due!

12/18: School
Talent Show!
1:30-3:30

12/22-1/2: Winter
Vacation

1/5: School
Resumes

Dear Families,

I would like to personally thank all of the parents for attending Parent Teacher Conferences. ☺ We had 100% parent participation! Also, it was great seeing so many students and families at the Heritage Festival last Friday! It was a well-attended event that reminds me of why Carpenter is so special.

Today your child will bring home his or her report card for the fall. We will continue to work together to ensure that each child shows growth. Please take time to carefully review the report card with your child, set some goals, and celebrate accomplishments. Inside of the report card you will also find your child's Fall NWEA test scores for math and reading. There is a letter enclosed that explains how to read and understand your child's scores. I have also included a copy of notes from the parent/teacher conference, to be kept at home. Tomorrow, your child should only return the report card envelope with a parent signature to school.

Please make sure that you are monitoring your child's homework nightly. Each child has a red Homework Folder that he or she is expected to bring to and from school **everyday**. Please check the folder and their Homework Assignment Sheet regularly. Completing homework reinforces the concepts and skills that we are learning at school. Returning homework to school reinforces responsibility.

The weather is quickly changing. As we enter into the winter months, please make sure that your child dresses appropriately for the weather. Please remember to only send in healthy snacks if your child would like to have a morning snack during one of our morning subjects. As a friendly reminder, our classroom is nut-free. Thank you for following our school snack policy.

I would like to thank all of the parents who have donated supplies to our classroom. We are in need of pencils (Ticonderoga), Kleenex, and disinfectant/antibacterial wipes. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

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

Your Child's Dedicated Teacher,
Ms. Drummer ☺

Happy Birthday!

Mahli 11/3
Cindy 11/19
Cecilia 11/30

Curriculum Highlights



The Book Nook Fall reading assessments have been completed! This week I will finish meeting with each student for a brief reading conference to discuss his/her current “just right” reading level. As shared out Parent Teacher Conferences and in the October newsletter, the fourth grade reading target for the fall marking period is Level P. Students reading below that reading level are receiving a “just right” book list, along with comprehension questions to support reading “just right” books outside of school. For the winter marking period in March the reading target is Level Q. The end of the year reading target is Level R. Please encourage your child to read both fiction and nonfiction texts that are at their “just right” reading level. Thanks to Mrs. Lowe several of students in our class will be able to use RAZ Kids! RAZ Kids is an online interactive resource that allows students to practice their reading fluency and comprehension. Students will read texts online and then take quizzes on what they have read. I will be providing specific students with their login information. Students with RAZ Kids accounts can also access RAZ kids from home and the public library. As a friendly reminder, all students are required to read for at least 20 minutes each night. This can include reading with someone or reading independently. The December reading goal for the Pizza Hut Book-It Reading Program is 300 minutes! If you have any questions on how to support your child’s reading growth outside of school please do not hesitate to contact me. Our classroom library is in need of books ranging from level K-O, specifically level K and level L books. We could also use some biographies that are matching those specific text levels. Thank you for ordering through Scholastic! Those orders have allowed me to earn points and choose new books for our class library! 😊



The Pencil Is Mightier

Students have published their personal narratives! During the end of the drafting process students worked on adding inner thoughts and feelings to their stories, forming paragraphs, elaborating on key sentences, crafting strong leads, and writing powerful endings. Before moving on to publishing final drafts I asked students to locate the heart of their stories and further develop them by adding relevant and meaningful details. Lastly, I provided each student with a checklist to self-revise and self edit his or her writing piece. Our next writing unit will involve students writing an informational piece. Students will write an informational article about an “expert topic” using an expository organizational structure. The “expert topic” involves one that they already know very well, and therefore no research is needed. The organizational structure will include an introduction, a body, and a conclusion, which is different from the personal narrative organizational structure of beginning, middle, and end. We will follow the steps in the writing process. Following our informational article writing, we will begin our research project in which each student will research an African American and write a biography that also follows an expository organizational structure.

“The mind is not a vessel to be filled but a fire to be ignited.”
- Plutarch

Curriculum Highlights contd...

Sum News

Last week we started Unit 4: Decimals and Their Uses. Students will learn how to read, write, order, and compare decimals to the hundredths place and give the value of the digits. They will also learn how to locate tenths and hundredths on a number line, add and subtract decimals, solve 1- and 2-place decimal addition and subtraction problems and number stories, measure metric length to the nearest half centimeter, and convert between centimeters and meters, and inches and feet. Please pay close attention to the letters that come home at the beginning of each new math unit. There is also a very useful website that I included in the Curriculum Night Parent Folder. This website provides very useful videos to help you and your child with the math concepts and skills that we are studying in class. I would strongly encourage you to use this website.

<http://www.mathatube.com/everydaymath-motheds.html>

Please encourage your child to practice their basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts as often as possible. Students can practice their math facts using fact triangles, Xtra Math, and the facts practice that is available on EDM online. It is imperative that as we progress through the remainder of our math curriculum that all students master their math facts with accuracy and speed. If you have any questions on how to utilize any of the resources that have been provided please do not hesitate to contact me!

Prior to the end of the next marking period in March your child will be reassessed on any concepts/skills in which your child is not yet secure for math unit 1 through unit 5. Essentially, I would like to give students the opportunity to show all areas in which they may have progressed.



The World Around Us

We are almost done with our Nature's Recyclers science lessons. This week we will complete our bread mold growth experiment in which we have been investigating the best conditions that cause mold growth. Students will compare their group's mold growth to the class constant, and construct line, and bar graphs using all of the data. Towards the end of the unit we will discuss the role of decomposers in the nutrient cycle, and the importance of scavengers, fungi, and bacteria. We will also study why nature's wastes does not just pile up, and consider what would happen if nature's recyclers were not part of the food chain. Matter will be our next science unit.

In social studies we have started chapter 4 in which we are learning about the Northeast region. Students will complete a geography challenge in which they use map skills to identify geographical features of the region, before they begin labeling a map of the Northeast Region with important historical landmarks.

*"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*

