

ROOM 202 & 204 NEWS

April 2016

Reminders

- *A healthy snack is provided daily in school.
- *Strings is Thursday from 12:20 - 1:00pm (Band on Friday)
- *Students should read nightly for at least 20 minutes.
- *Students need to practice their math facts at home daily, focusing on ones they struggle with.

Important Dates

- * 4/5 ~ MCAS Reading 2B
- *4/6 ~ Half day
- *4/18-4/22 ~April Vacation
- *4/26 ~ 3rd Q Conferences
- *4/27 ~ BSO Field Trip
- *5/9 -5/10 ~ Math MCAS

Classroom Wishlist

- * Gently used books (reading levels grades 2 - 6 are appreciated)
- * Tissues/Kleenex
- * Hand Sanitizer & lotion
- * Pencils & erasers
- *Clorox Wipes



Dear Room 202 & 204 Families,

Let's start with some fun updates about what's been happening in school. We've had some great assemblies and performances. Joh Camara, worked with grades 4-8 teaching them how to play the drums. He performed with the Grade 7/8 World Percussion. Additionally, we had an incredible all school pep rally. The chorus prepared several motivational songs and teachers participated. We led a surprise ending singing a revised version of Taylor Swift's "Shake it Off." This tradition is always a lot of fun. Several students also helped with the School Improvement Plan Presentation, sharing their voice. Thank you Lucca, Marcus, Kasra, Halaf and Landon.

Even with all of the fun guests and assemblies, we have still been very busy and productive in the classroom. Students persevered and worked with tremendous determination and stamina during the ELA MCAS. Thank you for the wonderful letters of encouragement you wrote. It was great to see their faces light up upon reading them. We are proud of their efforts!

Next week students will finish the final session of the ELA MCAS, which has a story writing component. Our upcoming April break is well deserved! We look forward to our field trip to the Boston Symphony Orchestra with Mr. Barringer the week after we return. We have some exciting trips also planned for May and June that we are excited to provide more details on soon.

Please continue to check folders for field trip permission slips and important calendar updates regarding the last day of school. As always, be sure to check our websites with exciting new photos from the classroom.

Thank you!

★ Ms. Correnti & Ms. Bahn

CONTACT: LCORRENTI@K12.SOMERVILLE.MA.US & ABAHN@K12.SOMERVILLE.MA.US

www.msccorrentiroom202.weebly.com & www.msbahngrade4.weebly.com

CURRICULUM UPDATES

READING ~ Over the last few weeks we have been in our “Minecraft” or “On Demand” review. Our focus has been to review all of the key reading genres: Fiction, Folktales, Nonfiction, Poetry and Drama. We have spent time working whole class, in small groups, partners, and individually to zoom in on the essential skills within each reading genre such as determining main idea and making inferences. Refining our close reading skills of varied text was also a big emphasis. We spent time reading slowly and carefully to stop and jot down notes. We are now in the midst of the ELA MCAS. Soon we will begin a really interesting nonfiction research unit. It will be a very exciting, hands on unit, where students will spend time researching online and with books/article to investigate a topic. They will become “experts” learning the facts, but also have to develop a stance on an issue. This project will involve both expository & opinion writing. We look forward to inviting you into the classroom later in May/June to view the projects.



MATH ~ We are currently completing our unit on geometry. Students learned about area and perimeter and practiced finding perimeter and area in the classroom. The past two weeks we have learned about lines and angles. The students worked diligently to understand how to use protractors and identify different types of angles. We are finishing this week with quadrilaterals, triangles, and symmetry. This coming month we will continue with more measurement and decimals. These lessons have hands-on learning using manipulatives, and the students will enjoy participating in these activities. Some measurement conversions have been introduced briefly, but more time will be spent on learning conversions, using rulers, meter sticks, and yard sticks, and discussing how and why these tools are used. It is still crucial that students are practicing all of their facts nightly, including addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.

WRITING ~ In writing students have really become wonderful story tellers. We have learned how to craft strong leads, develop character dialogue, incorporate description and figurative language, and tie up our writing with a satisfying ending. Over the last few weeks, we have also become strong expository writers, clearly sharing our thinking about the text and supporting it with evidence, the author’s own words. Moving forward we will explore some poetry writing during April, the honorary poetry month. We will also work on developing our expository and opinion writing skills in conjunction with the research project. Please make sure to ask to see our writing portfolios at conferences! We will have several new writing pieces to share with you.



SCIENCE ~ We are finishing electricity and beginning a unit on animals this month. The kids were enthralled with circuit building and discovering hidden circuits the past few weeks. In this next unit, students will learn about the key characteristics of the six most important groups of animals, diagram the life cycle stages of frogs and butterflies, and learn about complete and incomplete metamorphosis. Animal adaptation will follow in the next month. I know how enthusiastic the students are about animals and I look forward to their excitement for these upcoming lessons!

SOCIAL STUDIES ~ Students have now learned two out of the four regions of the U.S. We just started learning about our third region, the Midwest. Students are doing a fabulous job studying their states and capitals. They have made maps and flashcards to help the studying process. Please continue to help them learn the new region and practice the older ones. It will be quite an accomplishment when they can name all fifty!

HOMESCHOOLING ~ Fact practice & reading for 20 minutes are both expected nightly. With testing, other assignments will vary by week. Please continue to sign off nightly on homework.

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