

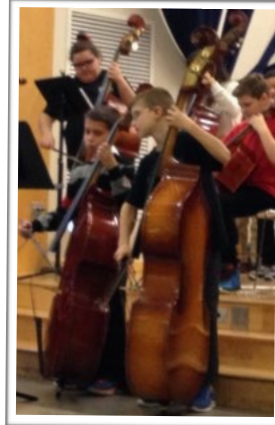
ROOM 202 & 204 NEWS

JANUARY 2015



Reminders

- *A healthy snack is provided daily in school.
- *Strings is every Thursday from 12:20-1:00pm (Band is every 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.



Dear Room 202 & 204 Families,

Wow 2015! It is hard to believe a new year has begun. We hope you enjoyed a restful break spent with family and friends. In the upcoming months you can expect to see another jump in the curriculum pacing and rigor. January and February are always very busy times for us in the fourth grade. Please keep in mind that in March students will take their English Language Arts MCAS, which involves three sessions. The first day is a full day Long Composition where students are asked to plan, draft, revise, and edit a 3-4 page narrative. The next two days are reading comprehension, where students read passages of varying genres and respond to both multiple choice and open response questions. In late February we will provide you with more information regarding exact dates and key details.

As students are welcomed back to school, we will again spend time reviewing important classroom routines and expectations. We know transitioning back into the structure can be challenging. Please continue to check in with your child about their day. Your interest, support, and encouragement in their learning is important! Remember to refer to classroom websites, which are updated at least once a month with more photos, calendar events, and updates on classroom happenings.

Lastly, in December we reached out to families about learning opportunities including guest visits and field trips. A number of parents have responded with great ideas and hopefully we will have some specific updates for you about some exciting Spring events in the near future.

Thank you!

★ Ms. Correnti & Ms. Bahn

Important Dates

- * 1/14 ~ Half Day Dismissal @ 12:00
- * 1/19 ~ No School MLK Day
- * 1/27 ~ Quarter 2 ends

Classroom Wishlist

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

CURRICULUM UPDATES

READING ~ Before break we began a short unit on drama, which we will conclude this week. Students have really enjoyed learning how to understand stage directions and take on a part in a play. After we wrap up our drama unit, we will begin Poetry. During this unit emphasis will be placed on using multiple strategies to understand poetry including: rereading, visualizing, hearing the poem aloud, and interpreting figurative language. Additionally students will learn to explore poems analytically line by line, understanding that poets choose each word with intention. Lastly, we will explore the message and meaning of the poem as a whole. This unit will emphasize the reading and analysis of poems, but students will also have the opportunity to write some of their own poetry.



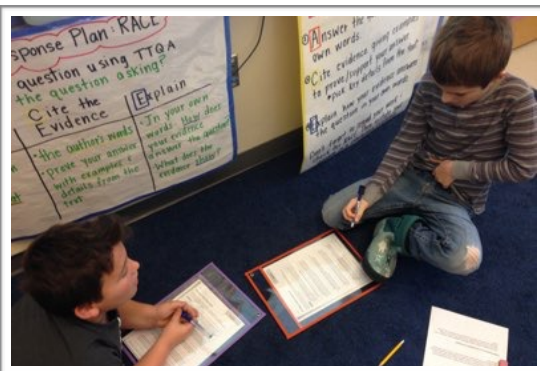
MATH ~ This month we are back to studying fractions! We will continue to work on understanding equivalent fractions and learn to add and subtract fractions. The foundations the students have built from the beginning of the year will help them as the concepts become more challenging. We will also circle back to division and multiplication practice. Please make sure that your student is practicing their math facts daily. The more fluent they are with their facts, the more easily they will grasp new math concepts. Our fourth graders are showing awesome effort, and I look forward to seeing even more in the New Year!



WRITING ~ Before break we worked on a brief Opinion and Persuasive writing unit. Given the new superintendent, we imagined some scenarios, some changes she might make such as shortening recess, or making uniforms mandatory. Students learned to form strong opinion statements and support their opinion with clear reasons and examples. Use of transition words was also emphasized. We have finalized our first letters, which we typed in the computer lab. Up next is the imaginative narrative genre where students will learn to create stories that do not have to be based on their own lives. This is always a very fun writing unit, where students' imaginations come to life! We will also continue to work on writing organized responses to text-based prompts.



SCIENCE ~ In Science, we are continuing to learn about the main animal groups and characteristics for each of these important groups. Students are learning to identify the difference between warm and cold-blooded animals, as well as which animals belong to which group. We will also study the life cycle, looking most specifically at frogs and butterflies and comparing the two. Students are eager to continue with our animal study this month!



SOCIAL STUDIES ~ Last month, we began studying the Northeast region. We are continuing with that most of this month and then will move on to the next region. If students have artifacts, books, postcards, or photos from any of the regions we are studying, please feel free to send them in to share! I would like to bring these places to life as much as possible. I am excited to continue to travel around the U.S. with our students!