

Mrs. Feuerstein's Focus

5-21-10

Wow! The time has flown by this year. It is hard to believe that we are to the point where we only have 2 weeks left of school. Even though the year has gone by quickly, we have really accomplished a great deal. Every child saw growth with his/her reading capabilities and put forth a great deal of effort in writing workshop. I don't think that these kids have every worked so hard on both. I have been very proud of both groups for stepping up their capabilities this year. I feel fortunate that I was able to get to know your child this year.

Writing Workshop

Since the conclusion of Essays in writers workshop, we have begun the unit on Literary Essays. This has been a smooth transition for us because we already know the set up of an essay; beginning paragraph, 3 middle paragraphs that support the thesis and then a concluding paragraph that wraps up the thinking. The difference with literary essays is that students are reading much more deeply into what stories actually mean and the messages that are conveyed through the written word. In hopes that your child will connect with the characters in books, and have an opinion of what the story means to him/her.

This is a really great way for your child to fall in love with reading. It forces him/her to pick apart a story that an author has written, and have his/her own thoughts and opinions about what it means. The thinking that is going on in my room right now is simply amazing. Adults don't give kids enough credit with how they view what is happening around them, and how those kids will respond. Ask your child what we are doing, and have him/her teach you what we are doing with literature. You'll be blown away!

Daily 5

Our Daily 5 from here on out will be interspersed with Social Studies. We are reading a book called *The Lemonade War* by Jacqueline Davies, and it is about a brother and sister that compete with each other over who can earn more money with their lemonade stand. The book is based on economic principals, teaching kids about supply and demand, needs vs. wants, opportunity cost, free market economy, competitor pricing, and many other economic terms. It fits in nicely with our economics unit.

Dates to Remember

5-21-10

Last AR Store of the year

5-31-10

No School: Memorial Day

6-3-10

Field Day

6-4-10

Reproductive Health 2:30-3:30

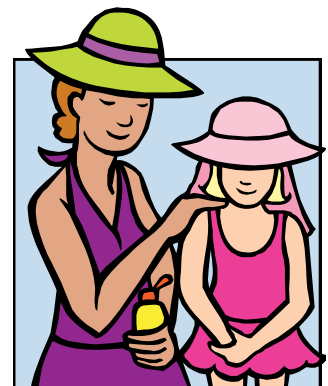
6-7-10

Reproductive Health 2:30-3:30

6-8-10

Last day for students, ½ day
Awards Assembly at 9:15 Parents
are welcome

Have a safe and wonderful
summer!



Knowing that summer is rapidly approaching, I am strongly urging all of you to continue to have your kids read throughout the summer. This will be a great way to keep your child's reading skills alive. If you let the reading slide, you will in essence be letting your child regress with the skills that it took all year to build. I'm not saying that they have to read all day, and skip playing outside, but if you make it a habit in the daily routine to set aside time to read, maybe before bed, or right away in the morning, your child will be much more prepared for school to start in the fall. As your child's teacher, this is what will help your child succeed. The phrase, "If you don't use it, you lose it," is so true. When kids don't continue to improve reading skills by practicing, it's like the child has to start over again every year. Please help your child, and make him/her read something every day, varying between fiction and non-fiction.

Social Studies

As I stated above we are into the economics part of our school year. I am teaching what needs and wants are, what a budget is, and the abovementioned items in the Daily 5 section. It is really interesting to hear what kids think about money, and where it comes from, and what is done with it. A way to extend what I'm doing here would be to discuss what it means to pay bills, the role of credit cards, debit cards, checks and cash in the family, and

Homework policy

If your child has completed his/her 30 minutes of reading, and it is signed on the Reading Log, and also has his/her agenda signed, your child will be able to participate in recess. Because this is the only homework that I am assigning, if these two things are not done each night, your child will not participate in afternoon recess. I am noticing a number of students are not doing the assigned 30 minute reading homework. Please note that this is the simplest way that you can help your child become a better reader and writer.

Standing Specials

Monday-Technology; Wednesday-Fine Arts; Friday-Physical Education

Check your child's agenda for Tuesday and Thursday specials

Notes

If you ever have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me. Thank you in advance for all that you do to help your child be successful! Mrs. Simmons and I really appreciate it.

Mrs. Feuerstein

