



## Ms. Kimmel Classroom News

October 28, 2011,

**Language Arts:** Students are doing well in our reading and spelling groups. They should be bringing a list home and it is also written in their planners. The spelling tests are usually on Fridays, a practice test is often given on Wednesdays. Any words students may miss on the test will be carried over to the following weeks list until your student masters the spelling of that word.

**Writers Workshop Help.** Often during Writer's Workshop Time (writing ideas not penmanship!) some students are stuck without an idea. You can help with this by jotting down some interesting things your child did over a weekend or during the evening. If you write this in their planner it may help them remember some events and give them ideas to write a small moment in their life story. It doesn't have to be a major event. You won't need to write something about every evening. It would really help our writing lessons a lot!

**Math:** You can help at home by reviewing the weather, the day of the week, month and date with your son or daughter. All students are working on math skills using the Saxon Math Program, which reviews many functional skills such as using money and telling time, and using a calendar in the daily lessons.

**Science:** We started working on plant hardiness zones in Michigan in preparation for a Service Learning Project involving the Community Garden in Belding. This goes along well with our study of the seasons, weather and plants.

**Social Studies:** We have been learning about the early times in the United States, locating states on a map and Michigan. Third and Fourth Graders have been focusing on Michigan History and fourth and fifth graders have also been studying the regions in the United States and locating and identifying states on a map of the United States.

**Behavior:** We are following the School Wide, Move Yourself program. There have been a few students who have stayed on Green for the month of October. Some students are making some bad choices such as arguing with teachers and peers, not following directions, and talking out and disrupting class repeatedly. Please encourage your child to make good choices and to be safe, responsible and respectful.

We have weekly Green Week activities for those students who have been able to stay on green all week. At the end of the month, we will have a school wide Green Day Celebration for all students who stayed on green every day for the month of October. Please encourage your son or daughter to make good choices each day. When ALL students stay on green for a full month, we will have a pizza party in addition to the school wide Green Day Celebration! I would love it if all my students earned the School Wide Green Day Celebration for November and a pizza party! We also have a weekly green day celebration for all students who stayed on green all week.

**Library:** Our day to visit the library is Tuesday. Please make sure your son or daughter returns their books every Tuesday, it would be wonderful if we all kept our book checkouts up to date this year.

**Adults** in Ms. Kimmel's Room this year (in addition to Ms. Kimmel of course):

Mrs. Dickinson -works with all our students and is in the room most of the day.

Nate Mason—our High School Intern is BACK! Nate is with us for about an hour each morning and he continues to do a fabulous job with the students.

Halloween Parties will start at 2:30 in my room. Please send in an item if you are able. We will be following directions to make some party food ourselves (recipes) in class in the morning.

Reminder there is no school on Tuesday November 1, 2011.

Reminder Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Tuesday November 1 or Thursday November 3, 2011. I am looking forward to meeting with each of you at your scheduled time!