

News from Room 233

Now that we are back to a 5-day week, students will have spelling and vocabulary practice along with their math homework. This week's root to practice is *aqua* meaning water, and our phonics practice contains words with prefixes connected to base words. We will spend time on word work in the classroom in conjunction with homework practice.



What's New?

Elaboration in Writing

We have been spending a lot of time working on our informational, "all about" books during writing time. Now that the students are comfortable with their topics and have used different strategies to write paragraphs about various subtopics, we are working to elaborate within our work. Students have looked at a variety of mentor texts, including those by Seymour Simon and Gail Gibbons to find ways that authors make their nonfiction works interesting. They have found that fun fact boxes, twin sentences, pop-outs, strong descriptions, and diagrams are all ways to make readers better connect to your work.

Coming

Soon...

Important Dates:

- 1/9 Keira's Birthday
- 1/10 Band Concert (1:30)
- 1/15 Martin Luther King Jr.
Day (No School)
- 1/16 Staff Development Day
(No School)

Biographies

During our reading block, we have been working exclusively with the genre of biography. Students have participated in lessons and independent practice to identify the elements of a biography. They know each book will typically have one subject (similar to a main character) and they will be taught about that person's life in a sequential order. A timeline can be a helpful tool to summarize the elements of a biography, as can a structure called *Someone Wanted But So Then*. Each of these words is a sentence starter that helps the students develop a concise summary about a biography or fiction story. Thanks to the class, we have a few new biography books that we have been loving. Recently, we read all about Rosa Parks and Abraham Lincoln, though the students have a much bigger variety to decide between when choosing their independent books.



Band Concert

This week we are lucky to be invited to the Advanced Band Concert. On Wednesday afternoon, we will be heading to the Gibbons Gym to watch Ms. Salazar's band put on a performance. Typically third graders are very interested in the concert and wondering if they can play an instrument in school in the future. Band participation can start in fourth grade as students enter the Roderick School and there are a variety of instruments to choose from. I know we have many musicians in the class already (some piano players, some working with guitar), and everyone is learning the basics with their recorders in Mrs. Mariotti's class.