



The Kelley/Marazzi Kronicles

"Education is the kindling of a flame, not a filling of a vessel." ~Socrates

LANGUAGE ARTS

The Iditarod race is finished!! What an exciting race to follow!! One day, I will certainly go to Alaska and experience this thrilling event with my family!!

Our Iditarod book clubs did a great job sharing several times throughout the race. Students truly enjoyed sharing their terrific themes and excellent evidence with their book members. I also enjoyed hearing all of the different themes students focused on and the detailed evidence they jotted down to support their theme. To help us end our reading race, each student took an AR test on their Iditarod book to show me how much they comprehended. I also had students write about their reading to further show how much they comprehended the concept of theme and evidence. I am happy to see how their text based writing skills are continuing to improve!! Writing about reading is a HUGE, important task in fourth grade.

In writing, the children and I have continued to explore our "Boxes and Bullets Opinion" writing unit. Our two nonfiction articles, "And Ice Cream For All" and "Icy History" have been a great activity to help extend our brilliant brains when it comes to writing about reading. The students will be putting their finishing touches on their essays next week and then taking them home. My goal was to have our wonderful workers compare two different marvelous men and how they helped make ice cream a sweet success for all Americans. In addition to comparing the men, students had to support their thoughts with text based evidence. We ARE becoming wonderful writers!!

In addition to writing about our reading, our awesome authors are still working on their special person piece. I am working with the students on elaborating with dynamite details and including at least one sensational simile into each paragraph. It has been a pleasure getting to know the people who our students admire the most in their lives. Over April vacation, I am going to ask each student to get a picture of their perfect person or a photo of them with their person and bring in into school. If possible, I'd love photos brought into school by Thursday, April 26th.

Math, Science, and Social Studies!

We are in the thick of fractions! Students have been exploring equivalencies with visual models and comparing and ordering with different denominators! We are now moving away from the visual models and are using the power of our "super hero" number 1 to find more equivalencies using a mathematical formula! WOW!

Our Fraction Satisfaction Tournament will take place next week complete with a double-elimination bracket board! Ask your student how they are doing in the tournament!

Next we'll begin looking at recipes and how important exact measurements are in cooking and baking! Although, all good cooks know a splash of this or a dash of that is what makes a sauce so scrumptious! We'll talk about when it is okay to estimate and when it's not!

In Social Studies, we have traveled to the Grand Canyon, the red rocks of Sedona, and the New Mexico Hot Air balloon festival! As a culminating project that combines math and the beautiful Southwest Region, students will be using their fraction knowledge to measure colored salt in fourths, thirds, halves and eighths to create a beautiful Southwest sand jar!

Please send in a clean 8 to 10 oz. jar with a lid and one box of salt (salt is only 50 cents at the dollar tree!) The white salt will be transformed with food coloring into the fabulous colors of the Southwest Region.

We have been integrating weathering and erosion into our Math and Social Studies unit too! So many of our exquisite southwest landforms have been formed by weathering and erosion!