



The Kelley/Marazzi Kronicles

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

LANGUAGE ARTS

April has certainly brought us many challenging activities to complete. Ice Cream writing...check! Special Person writing...check! ELA MCAS...check!!

In writing, our superb students finished comparing two nonfiction articles about ice cream and how two terrific men helped change the history of ice cream forever. Reading, analyzing, and writing about two different articles was a huge undertaking for our children. I was incredibly pleased to see how each group worked hard to problem solve on how to attack the focus question and then take notes on how to prove each man contributed to the history of this fabulous frozen treat. I was also pleasantly surprised at the in-depth conversations students were having as they began to type their written piece on chrome books. Each student was responsible for his/her own typing as well making sure the group agreed on what information would be written down and in what order. Creating four fantastic paragraphs that included their own words and text based evidence is a skill we will continue to strengthen as the year continues. With three months of school still to complete, we will be ready to dazzle our 5th grade teacher come September, for sure!!

Our Special Person writing is beginning to wrap up wonderfully! The children and I have worked hard to elaborate with details and include figurative language in each paragraph. Elaborating was an important goal in this unit for each student. The two terrific classes and I also focused on creating a catchy conclusion, so that our papers would end on a bang instead of fizzle out. Beginning and ending an essay with strong, important details is a wonderful way to hook the reader! As you enjoy April vacation, please remember to be on the lookout for a photo of your child and their special person. I'd love to have all photos in school by Thursday, April 26th.

Another amazing read aloud has begun! As a way to relax and enjoy the power of a super story, the students and I have begun reading aloud, The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane. Our focus will be on how Edward changes drastically throughout this book.

Math, Science, and Social Studies!

Our room is a galaxy of stars, planets, moons, and oceans! Students worked diligently on their "fractions of a set project" while using their imagination to create a galactic atmosphere filled with fractional parts. This project challenged the students to read directions, plan, calculate, create, and problem-solve! Student Choice, and Teacher Choice prizes were awarded.

Now that students have finished the ELA MCAS this week, we are moving to decimals and how they relate to fractions. We'll investigate ways decimals are used in our every-day life, and why it makes more sense to use a decimal rather than a fraction in certain situations.

Our Fraction Satisfaction Tournament has been postponed until after vacation, to give students more time to complete their Weather Wiz Kids Presentations. Ask your child to show you their great research on their Google account. We explored the mysteries of weather and its effects on our earth by exploring landslides, floods, droughts, lightning, thunderstorms, blizzards, and many, many more!

To end our busy week, students will mix up their Southwest color recipe and create their sand jars! After vacation, we'll travel to the Wild Wild West investigating Native American Tribes that still live and work there today.

We'll finish our Science year together by exploring animals' internal and external structures, and investigate the magic of magnetism and electricity!