



The Kelley/Marazzi Kronicles

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

LANGUAGE ARTS

In our first wonderful writing unit, students will focus on creating a realistic fiction story that highlights a powerful small moment. Each student has created a main character that possess internal traits and external traits. The students and I have discussed and taken notes on internal traits that are optimistic and pessimistic. I hope that our conversations help students create real characters that have both positive and negative traits. In addition to traits, each character has a struggle that they will be working to overcome in their story. Our sensational students have certainly developed many incredible struggles.

During reading time, the students and I have continued to read and discuss the book, Wonder. Our main focus is still August and his internal and external traits. As a group, we have worked hard to record all of our evidence that supports each of Auggie's traits. We have also begun to classify supporting characters as optimistic characters or pessimistic characters. This book serves as a fantastic connection to our writing unit!

In our Reader's Journal, each student has also begun to think and write about Mr. Browne's precepts. Mr. Browne is Auggie's ELA teacher who has his students read an important precept each month and then write about what it means to them. Just as Auggie and his classmates do in their ELA class, we have been busy bees writing along with them.

Our "Just Right" reading books and Accelerated Reading book quizzes are taking off with a bang!!! I love how students are interested in book shopping in our classroom library and diving right into a new book when they have the opportunity. Mrs. Lopez, our school librarian, has also been helping the students. In library, she has the students look up book levels as well. YAHOO!

MATH

We are "rounding up" some really large numbers, and exploring our number sense by understanding why we estimate and round numbers. Sometimes it makes sense to round a number and sometimes not so much! We have had great math and number sense conversations!

We'll be moving on to addition and subtraction of large numbers using the standard algorithm which may be new for some students. We will also be problem solving and using our critical thinking skills with our new addition and subtraction skills.

Students have done a fantastic job with their homework notebooks! Accuracy and neatness are key! Students will bring home their new weekly homework sheet today. If you need a refresher, the guidelines are inside the cover of your child's notebook! Fact Frenzy Fridays continue---help you child master their facts to reach their goal!

Science and Social Studies

As a culmination to our Properties of Matter Unit, students will be creating a hat to protect them if they were stranded on a deserted island. They will investigate what properties of materials will work best, and they will present their hat to the class! In Social Studies, we are finishing up the Northeast Region with our state region creatures! Even though we live in the Northeast, there was so much more we learned about this great region in our United States!