



The Kelley/Marazzi Kronicles

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

LANGUAGE ARTS

In writing, our students have been focusing on finishing their sensational small moment scene where their character first shows signs of his/her struggle. Now that the heart of our story has been written, the students have been busy creating their sensational story arc. Each child had to think about what exciting events would lead up to the main character's struggle and what excellent events would follow this dramatic moment. The story arc has been a marvelous map as we begin to draft our first story.

During reading time, the students and I have continued to read and discuss the brilliant book, Wonder. Our focus has been on identifying the internal and external traits of Auggie. As a class, we have also begun to point out possible themes in the story and provide book evidence to support each one. As fabulous fourth graders, it is important that each one of us learns to support our ideas with text based evidence. Sharing this books as a whole class will certainly open our minds to this new concept. In addition to Wonder, the children and I have also launched our second superb read aloud story, Tiger Rising. Each child has been given a copy of the book, and we have been learning to read intensely. When we read a book intensely, we can comprehend at a deeper level. Along with reading intensely, the students and I have also been learning how to jot our thoughts on post-its as we read. Great readers think while they read. To help us think deeply, each student has been writing down a complete sentence on a perfect little post-it. Each terrific thought offers interesting insight into how our children read and think about stories. It is my goal to encourage our children to read beyond the text, so that they can enjoy every dynamite detail of a book and write wonderful thoughts about what they are reading.

MATH

We are finishing up our place value unit and students will be assessed on their progress over a two day period. The students have done a fantastic job understanding and discussing the relationship and value of numbers. Ask your child to explain how 700 relates to 70. Students have been using number lines to help them round 4 digit, 5 digit, and even 6 digit numbers. They have become rounding all-stars!

Addition and subtraction of large numbers using the standard algorithm will is up next! This may be new for some students, but our work with place value should help students along while learning the content. We will also be problem solving and using our critical thinking skills with our new addition and subtraction skills.

We have been working hard on organizing our math binders to be shared at conference time. The binders consist of practice work, pre and post assessments and a record of their fact practice. The students are so excited to share their hard work and progress!!

Science and Social Studies

In our unit on matter, we have been exploring the properties of matter. We used dice, water and vanilla extract to observe what happens when states of matter are moved from one container to another. For our unit on the Northeast, we took a pre-assessment to determine a starting point for our study of the states and capitals. Students will be asked to locate the state on a map and name the capital. Keep a look-out for flash cards coming home soon!