



# 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 finished their sensational story arc. Many have included dynamite details that truly help the reader envision their story. Each child has also completed writing the heart of their story in their Writer's Journal. This section of their story is the turning point for their character. It is the moment when their character is face to face with their struggle and now can begin to overcome it. As I conference with students about the heart of their story, students are focusing on writing an interesting introduction and a brilliant beginning to hook the reader into wanting to read more and more! The children are using a nifty narrative check list and their wonderful writing goals to help make them become stronger writers.

During reading time, the students and I have continued to read and discuss the brilliant book, Wonder. As a group, we have continued to fill chart paper with the story's themes and internal and external traits from Auggie. We have also continued to use post-its to stick to our charts to help us identify specific evidence that supports each theme. In addition to Wonder, the children and I are also reading Tiger Rising. Students have all personally selected to follow one character in the sensational story. As they each jot their thought on a post-it, they are to write an internal trait of their chosen character and mark it with evidence in the text. It has been nice to hear student's share their thoughts about their characters and learn new information from others that are also tracking the same book character. Just like in Wonder, the two classes are also noting themes in Tiger Rising. As a theme is added to our lovely list, students must also provide evidence to prove the theme. Proving evidence is a huge task in fourth grade! I will continue to guide the children each week through examples from our amazing texts.

## MATH

I am so happy to be back in the classroom with my students! I am so impressed with how the learning continued in math at the high-level of expectation that I had set for them in September. Students were very proud to fill me in on all they had accomplished. On Tuesday, students brought home their Unit 1 Assessment with a cover letter explaining the standards based grading in math. Next Monday, they will be bringing home their math binders with all their in-class practice work. I encourage you to look closely at all they have accomplished! I will gladly help with any questions you may have at conference time!

This week, we started addition and subtraction of large numbers using the standard algorithm, and will move to estimating, number patterns, and multiplication of large numbers.

We continue with Math 4 today nightly homework, as well as fact frenzy practice, and weekly quizzes.

## Science and Social Studies

In Social Studies, we are taking a road trip to Washington D.C. before heading to the Sunny Southeast! Students will be researching a memorial or monument and will create a Google slide presentation to teach the class about their topic!

In Science, we will be exploring weathering and erosion and the effects of climate change!