



The Kelley/Marazzi Kronicles

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

LANGUAGE ARTS

Welcome to our terrific term two teaching points! Hard to believe it is already December. Time is flying!

In writing, our students are wrapping up their first writing piece. We have been focused on writing an excellent ending. I would love for each writing piece to end with a BANG! The students and I want the reader to sit back and say, "WOW! You ARE an AMAZING AUTHOR!" The children will continue to use their nifty narrative check list and their wonderful writing goals to polish up their writing pieces to perfection. I am proud of each student's use of awesome adjectives and sensational similes.

During reading time, we finished reading and discussing the incredible book Wonder. In class, we are now diving deep with our thoughts on what themes were the strongest and what book evidence best supports each theme. The children are really beginning to understand the challenging concept of theme...yahoo! In addition to Wonder, the children and I are also continuing to read Tiger Rising. Each of the fourth graders are busy tracking their chosen character and providing evidence to support their character's internal traits. As a group, we have also created a huge list of terrific themes that have popped out at us like popcorn popping out of a machine. Our themes for Tiger Rising are loneliness, sadness, bravery, friendship, and hope. Each theme has book based evidence to prove how the theme is truly present in each chapter. One final skill we have been focusing on in reading is beginning to analyze "read" a character. We have been analyzing a character's actions based on their words and movements. Not an easy task, but a little dramatic reading is helping us to visualize important parts of the book. ☺ Hollywood here we come!

MATH

This week, students were surprised to discover that not only do characters and people have internal and external traits, but numbers have traits too! We explored factors, multiples, patterns and prime and composite numbers. We read about the great mathematician Eratosthenes who sieved out numbers to create patterns and ultimately discovered prime numbers!

Next week, we'll explore multiplying multi-digit numbers along with some seasonal problem solving! We will shop and create a budget for all the items on our wish lists!

Look for your mathematician's math binder to come home next week. Be sure to check out all their great work! The notes pages and table of contents will help you understand the sequence of our learning in math.

Math 4 today homework with Friday quizzes continue. Look for your child's quiz to come home each week. Students continue to work on their Fact Frenzy goals and are showing great progress!

Science and Social Studies

Students became Washington D.C. tour guides in the last few weeks and researched a monument, memorial or important place in D.C. Students presented their slide shows to the class. Ask your child to show you their great presentation in their google account!

In science, we began exploring weathering and erosion and will continue to learn about the effects on our planet!