



The Kelley/Marazzi Kronicles

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

LANGUAGE ARTS

Term two is underway, and our sensational students have been working as hard as little elves!

In writing, our students are becoming excellent editors. Each child is focusing on adding capital letters, punctuation marks, and correct spelling into their wonderful writing. The students and I have also been focusing on where to place commas and understanding why commas belong in certain locations. Commas are a tough concept, but we are beginning to understand it. Our writers are also revising their writing pieces and making sure they have included adjectives, adverbs, and similes to enhance their small moment story. Students have been conducting writing conferences with their peers and teachers. During our conference time, we have jotted down compliments in our Google doc and added a few helpful hints on how to jazz up the writing piece. Writing conferences have been a GREAT way to communicate wonderful writing skills.

During reading time, we have continued to read another fabulous read aloud story, Tiger Rising. We are three chapters away from the shocking ending! Each student has focused on one character of their choice and has been jotting down the character's internal and external traits. As a group, we have also continued to discuss themes for Tiger Rising. Our focus has been on loneliness, sadness, bravery, friendship, and hope and providing book evidence for each one. As the unit comes to an end, the two classes and I have also been busy talking about characters that are complicated and how to prove that certain characters are indeed complex. Deep thinking is certainly happening in Tiger Rising.

Our next reading unit will be nonfiction. Our reading skills will also carry over to other areas such as social studies and science...yahoo!!

MATH

This week, we exercised our critical thinking skills during math workshop and created a holiday workshop in our classroom! Students solved gingerbread cookie conundrums, light-stringing measurement mishaps, selfish elf mysteries, and toy shop tangled budgets! We certainly had a mind-boggling time, and our brains are much stronger for it!

Next week, we will be tackling STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) hands-on activities. Students will build the tallest tree possible out of straws and playdough, create the sturdiest shelf for an elf, and strategize to make the longest paper chain out of one piece of paper!

Students are also excited ☺ to take the STAR math assessment on Wednesday which will show how much they have grown in Math since September.

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

We have travelled to the sunny Southeast region, and are exploring all the great places to visit in all 12 states. States and capitals quiz will be Thursday, December 21st!

Our work with weathering and erosion is well under way with our exploration of wind and water!