



The Kelley/Marazzi Kronicles

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

LANGUAGE ARTS

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow! Freezing temperatures and numerous inches of snow have certainly started 2018 off with a BANG! With the wild winter weather surrounding us outside, we have started to warm up our brilliant brains inside with our sensational fourth grade subjects!

In writing, our students are putting their fabulous finishing touches on their realistic fiction stories and conferencing with me one final time before they happily click the print button. Our writers have truly worked hard to develop stories that included a character who has internal and external traits as well as a struggle to overcome. Once both classrooms have published their pieces, students will be ready to share their magnificent masterpieces with their friends and family. As we wrap up conferences during our workshop times each week, the children and I will begin our next writing unit –Personal and Persuasive Essays. This unit is opinion based.

During reading time, the students and I have kicked off a new and exciting nonfiction unit. Together, we have filled book bags with interesting Time For Kids magazines, intriguing science newspapers, social journals, and several nonfiction texts. With our book bags stuffed, the classes and I have been discussing how we MUST preview a nonfiction text first BEFORE diving right in and reading it. By previewing the text FIRST, a student's brain becomes focused on the topic and tunes in to the reading material better. I have modeled previewing using a brilliant book called Everything Weather. It has been a marvelous mentor text to get the students thinking and talking about all types of weather. Our winter weather here couldn't be a more perfect example to help me get the students excited about all things nonfiction.

In my morning message to the children, I have also started to include perfect little poems. Last week, the classes and I analyzed and discussed two winter poems to see how they were similar and different. Making text to text connections is an important fourth grade skill. I will continue to include poems in our morning messages as often as I can to help each of us strengthen our analyzing skills.

MATH

We will be finishing our work with double-digit multiplication next week, and will move to division of large numbers and interpreting remainders. We will start slowly and work our way to the large numbers, as this can often be a challenging concept. We will be doing a lot of role playing and acting out our problems so students will have great hands-on and visuals to help them master this content.

This week students worked on an area and perimeter super challenge to enhance the skills they learned in 3rd grade! We stepped it up a few notches!

We continue to stretch our brains with STEM challenges! Next week, students will be designing a chair for Goldilocks! **For a future STEM challenge, we will need many paper towel and TP empty cardboard rolls. Please save them and send them in any time! ☺**

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

Science and Social Studies

We have explored weathering and erosion through many great investigations! Students froze water in styrofoam cups and investigated ice wedging. Next we explored tree root wedging, and today we will be shaking it up with abrasion! Our room will be noisy as we simulate different scenarios of how rocks break!