



The Kelley/Marazzi Kronicles

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

LANGUAGE ARTS

The Iditarod race is underway, and the two terrific classes are thrilled to be involved in this exciting event!!! In ELA, students have begun to read their new Iditarod book group book. As students are reading, they are focusing on a theme that pops up in their book and catches their attention. Once they have identified their terrific theme, they have also been asked to collect excellent evidence to support their theme. Book groups met this week and shared their theme ideas and book evidence with their classmates. The students did a fantastic job jotting down notes and sharing all of their interesting ideas with their marvelous members.

In writing, the children and I have continued to explore our "Boxes and Bullets Opinion" writing unit. Our focus has continued to be using our key vocabulary terms such as thesis, evidence, examples, and elaborate. As we wrapped up our delicious ice cream writing, the children and I will analyze two terrific articles that make connections to ice cream. "And Ice Cream For ALL!" is an interesting informational article that will teach us how the frozen treat became such a sweet success. Our second article, "Icy History!" is a perfect partner article to "And Ice Cream for All" in that it too was an informational article that taught us how ice cream was invented. In fourth grade, students are required to read two separate texts about similar topics and be able to discuss and write about the two articles similarities and differences. These two awesome articles are a wonderful way for us to put our fourth grade skills to great use!!

As our writing unit continues, each student has begun to write about a special person in their life. Within this essay, students will elaborate on three wonderful ways their special person means the world to them. It has been great conferencing with your student and learning about a special person in their life that make them happy. Each student will be looking for a photo at home that has them with their special person in it. I would love to be able to attach the perfect photo to their essay to make this piece sweet! I'll be sure to send home a final copy of this extraordinary essay when each child finishes.

MATH

Last week, students completed the 4th Grade Unit 2 Math Assessment. We are currently working on celebrating our accomplishments, working on making corrections and understanding our errors. **I will be sharing your child's assessment and their score at our upcoming conference in March. This will help you better understand our standards-based method of grading, and will zero in on what your child's math needs are.**

Ask your child about our super STEM toy maker's challenge! It was awe inspiring to watch the students be so engaged in the planning, design, budgeting, and creation of their toys all made from recycled and classroom items. Students chose to work independently or in groups and rose to the challenge of being creative, innovative, and determined to be successful! There are many future entrepreneurs in our class!

Now on to fractions! We will explore equivalencies, improper fraction and mixed numbers with a few twists and challenges!

Social Studies and Science

We have taken a "side trip" to Alaska to cheer on the mushers in the last Great Race- The Iditarod! Students are checking the website every day and tracking each students' musher as they navigate the rough Alaskan terrain.

In science, we continue exploring famous landmarks that have been the subject of weathering and erosion.