



The Kelley/Marazzi Kronicles

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

LANGUAGE ARTS

Heeeeellllllo warm, spring weather!! What a PHENOMINAL feeling it is to see and feel the sensational sunshine of May!! With two terrific months left of fourth grade, we still have lots of lovely learning to complete.

In writing, our Special Person pieces looks fabulous! It has been a true treat learning about all the special people our students love and admire. Our final step has been to edit the entire piece with a writing partner and a teacher. Printing....here we come!! Thank you to each family for sending in a beautiful photo of your child's special person. Your photo truly brings your child's writing piece to life!!

In reading, our super students have jumped in a time tunnel and moved back to marvelous moments in our country's history leading up the Revolutionary War. As a class, we have divided into research teams and begun exploring all the exciting events that led up to the Revolutionary War. Each team has narrowed down their list of terrific topics to two possible events that they would like to research. As our unit began, students read and analyzed about their self-selected event, watched influential videos, and listened to motivational speeches given by famous people. It is truly amazing to look back in our country's history and see the determination and perseverance it took to make our nation incredible!!!!

This term's read aloud is The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo. Our two classes began the book by analyzing the main character, Edward, internally and externally. Students are doing an awesome job identifying Edward's character traits and supporting each one with excellent evidence from the text. We have hit our first turning point in the brilliant book as well. Edward has undergone a physical and mental transformation. For the first time in his life, he feels afraid and alone. With his furry head stuck in the muck at the bottom of the ocean, he has no other choice but to think about how much his owner loved him. Many more miraculous changes are coming our way!! As your child reads their Just Right fiction book at home, ask them if their main character changes in any way. Try to have your child make a connection to Edward! Happy reading!

Math, Science, and Social Studies!

Phew! We made it through our math MCAS last week! The students worked so diligently through the two days of testing! I am so proud of each and every one of them!

After MCAS, our math discussions have been centered around what it takes to plan a great vacation. We talked about hotel costs and reservations, travel costs by plane, train, or automobile, ticket and admission costs to different attractions, and food/entertainment costs. At the end of our discussion, most students decided they wanted to stay a kid and enjoy the trip and not grow up and plan! One child's priceless comment: "I'm going home and giving my parents a big thank you hug!" Another response: "Can't we just use Trip Advisor?" ☺

After all the great conversions, each student began planning and budgeting a two-night trip for a family of five to a make-believe fair! This project is complete with mini-math conferences with me, a geometric fair souvenir project, and a final budget presentation to the class!

In Science, we are moving on to Magnetism and Electricity! We'll learn about Maglev trains, and how animals use magnetic tracking in their migration efforts. We'll build circuits and electromagnets in this very interactive science unit!

We are finishing up our travels to the West Region! Students are experts at using their technology and presentation skills to create slide shows about their topic!

LOOK FOR A CHAPERONE REQUEST FORM TO COME HOME FOR OUR UPCOMING TRIP TO STURBRIDGE VILLAGE ON JUNE 15TH!