



# The Kelley/Marazzi Kronicles

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

## LANGUAGE ARTS

With Memorial Day approaching, the students and I have taken time during our morning messages to discuss why we celebrate Memorial Day. Together, we have looked at two terrific poems and discussed the rich history of Memorial Day. Lots of nifty nonfiction reading going on to better understand this federal holiday.

In ELA, we are blending our reading and writing units. In our research teams, we are reading Just Right nonfiction texts about our chosen American Revolutionary War topics. As we read a new nonfiction text and article, we are working through a sensational system that will help each of us become strong nonfiction reader. First, each team is selecting a Just Right text that offers dynamite details about their terrific topic. Once the book or article is chosen, students are previewing the text and marking important "chunks" of information with post-its. From there, students will read together their important chunks and discuss the main idea and supporting details that are key to the subsection. As a group, they will then create in-depth notes in their journals, on index cards, or on a Google document. Their notes must start with the following sentence starters... I learned that....An important details to support that is....This seems important because...This makes me think...Our sentence starters have been a powerful tool! These sentences help each of our students stay focused with their details, support their details with text based evidence, and include their own terrific thoughts. As we continue to research our topics, I will also share poems and short articles to show students how to read between lines and pull out the juicy dramatic details that bring our country's rich history to life. My goal during these two units is to have each student create an essay about an exciting event leading up to the Revolutionary War and to have each research team develop a power point presentation about their terrific topic.

Our read aloud The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo has certainly captured our hearts and thoughts. The students are doing a fabulous job tracking Edward's internal changes and supporting each change with book evidence.

## Math, Science, and Social Studies!

Our "Trip to the Fair" Math project is still in full swing. We've chosen the most economical option for lodging, decided on a vehicle and the cost of mileage and gasoline, purchased tickets for a family of 5, and planned breakfast, lunch and dinner for the 3-day trip! We'll continue working on amusement ride facts and figures, carnival game probabilities, participate in a pie-eating contest and triple the recipe. We will graph a hot dog eating contest, and finally, we will tally all our calculations to get a grand total of the cost of the trip! Perseverance and real life skills in action every day with this project!

Students have also been working on a new math website called PRODIGY! They have set up their accounts and created their avatar. The game is motivational and engaging! Students barely realize they are practicing their math skills at the same time! Ask your child to show you the game at home. They can certainly continue playing throughout the summer to keep their math skills sharp!

In June, we will dedicate a week to more new and exciting STEM challenges to sharpen our engineering and problem solving skills!

Our super scientists have discovered the magic of magnets! We explored magnetic material in our classroom, and made an invisible magnetic force field very visible with iron filings. We created temporary magnets while learning how the atoms in a magnetic item align.

We did it! We have made it to Hawaii and Alaska in our travels across the United States! Now, on to planning our Hawaiian Luau to celebrate! Look for details to follow! 😊