

Newsletter

April 8th, 2016

Can't Wait Unit Monday Morning! Father's Day/Special Someone Day

The students are very busy preparing to host their fathers on April 11th, from 9:45 to 10:45. We are excited about our plans for the dads. We realize that some fathers may not be available. No problem... is there a grandfather, godfather, uncle, or special family friend that could attend in a father's place?

We are looking forward to entertaining the dads and sharing some joy!

Congratulations, Sarah Britton, for having your artwork chosen for the "Great Frame-Up" Art Show exhibit at The Station at Vinings Shopping Center. The Opening Reception is on April 27th from 6:00 – 7:00 P.M.



Spring Arts Festival Update

The Spring Arts Festival T-shirts will be given to the students on Tuesday. The children should wear these shirts with jeans or pants and shoes that are comfortable for moving around outside.

Updates, Reminders, & FYIs This Week

- ✓ Monday through Thursday is D through G Days.
- ✓ Monday - Father's Day
- ✓ Wednesday - Spring Arts Festival - 12:30 - 1:30 (NUD)
- ✓ Wednesday - Gymnastics starts in PE. (April 11 - 29)
- ✓ Thursday - Chapel
- ✓ Friday - No school - All-School Inservice for faculty

FYIs... 👁️👁️

Save the Dates!

*April 18th - No School - Faculty Planning Day

Testing

- *Practice WrAP - April 19 & 20
- *WrAP - April 27 & 28, 8:15 - 9:15
- *ERBs - May 2 - 6 (Every morning testing session times vary.)

Ms. Spiers is collecting old CDs and DVDs for a project for our Earth Day celebration on April 22. If you have any that you no longer need, please send them her way. Thank you!

The "Papers to be Signed and Returned" form was sent home on Friday. Thank you for signing and returning the noted papers and the form.

Please visit the Scrapbook on our class website for some great pictures throughout the year!

Here's What We Are Studying

Math

The Unit 10 Open Response Assessment will be given on Monday morning.

The math units are shorter. Unit 11 has seven lessons and Unit 12 has only six lessons. The units are zipping by! We will be taking the End-of-the-Year Test prior to the Unit 12 Assessment, so more math reviews can take place in preparation for the standardized testing. Any skills and/or concepts in Unit 12 that will be assessed on the End-of-the-Year Test will be taught prior to that assessment.

Social Studies

The students will be taking a test on the geographical locations of the thirteen colonies and other specific geographical features. They will also be writing an essay about the colonial regions. The essay portion of the test will be open notes. The test will be on Thursday.

The first lessons for "The Road to Revolution" will start this week. The students will be given specific questions to take notes on during read alouds. Those questions/answers will be discussed. Flashcards with the questions and the answers will be available online. We will be creating our study guide as we go. Our first topic will be The French and Indian Wars.

Standardized Testing

For further clarification...

The WrAP (Writing Assessment Program) is an assessment provided by the ERB (Educational Records Bureau) organization. The WrAP is composed of two, one-hour sessions given over two days. A prompt, along with suggestions for writing the prompt, is provided the day of the assessment.

The CTP (Comprehensive Testing Program) is a rigorous assessment for high achieving students that is also provided by the ERB.

Although we have been focusing on specific skills, concepts, and strategies to strengthen test-taking abilities, the month of April will be devoted to additional conditioning for the assessments.

Writer's Workshop

Focus: ERB Test Prep

The students are reviewing specific grammar and punctuation skills. They are learning about the different types of analogies and how to determine word pairs that match a given analogy.

The students are also taking practice (simulated) CTP tests. Last week, the students worked on Verbal Reasoning (which includes analogies). This week the students will be given a practice Vocabulary Test. After each test is taken, we go back over the test and discuss test-taking strategies. The students are also given the opportunity to review the questions they missed. These are great learning opportunities! The students will be taking practice CTP tests in all of the areas they will be tested on in May.

Word Study - The students were given the Fourth Grade Level Spelling Inventory to make sure they are secure in spelling grade level words. Those misspelled words were added to their PSWs. The quiz scheduled for last week was moved to Monday. The students will have up to their next 30 PSWs on the quiz. There are no "Noticings" or sentence work for this quiz.

Weekly Writing - On Monday, I will assign an old WrAP writing prompt on WPP. Along with the prompt will be guidelines for writing the prompt... the same guidelines that are given for the actual WrAP. Since the WrAP is limited to two, one hour sessions, the students should be able to complete the prompt by Thursday. I will provide time at school to go over the prompt, the guidelines, and get the students started on their prewriting.

Reader's Workshop

Our focus will be on historical narrative and nonfiction texts. Our social studies and reading lessons will merge. Historical Fiction book clubs will be formed.