

# Newsletter

## December 11th, 2015

### Updates, Reminders, & FYIs This Week

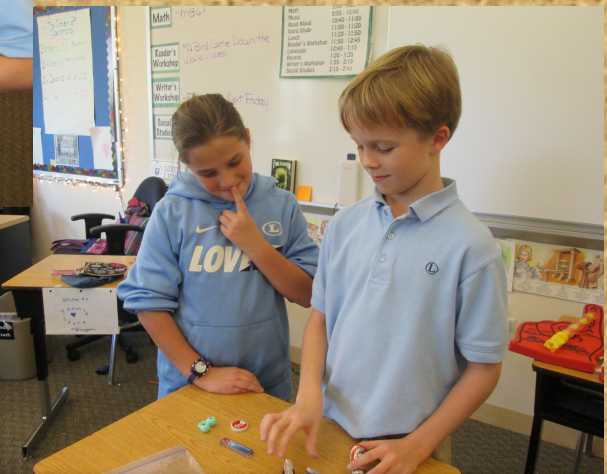
- ✓ Monday through Friday is A through D Days.
- ✓ Wednesday - Holiday Musical 7 P.M.
- ✓ Thursday - "My Sister's House" Shelter Field Trip - 8:30 - 11:00
- ✓ Thursday - Holiday Sing-A-Long - 12:30
- ✓ Thursday - Winter Holiday Class Party - 1:45

#### "Bartering Day"

The challenge was to trade goods with someone who doesn't speak your language. How should you communicate? I'm proud to say our young, historian actors "nailed" their roles! I loved the absence of noise in spite of the bustle!



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



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

## My Sister's House Service Project

On Thursday, December 17th, our class will be visiting "My Sister's House," a branch of the Atlanta Mission. The homeless shelter for mothers and their children is located off Howell Mill Road and 9th, near the Atlanta Humane Society. In preparation for our trip, we are having a "Paper Shower." The center is always in need of tissues, plates, napkins, towels, TP, wet ones, diapers, coloring books, and more. We will also need homemade goodies and juice.

The bottom line is that whatever is donated will be greatly appreciated regardless of what the child chooses to purchase. Donations should not be sent to school until Monday, December 14th. (We have a storage problem.) Homemade goodies and juice should not be brought to school until the day before or the day of the trip.

Around 8:30ish, we will head out to the shelter. We look forward to playing with the pre-schoolers, singing Christmas carols, sharing our treats, and touring the facility while learning about what it means to be homeless. Sharing our blessings with others is what it's all about!

Thank you for your support.

### UPDATE

**THE STUDENTS LEARNED ALL ABOUT THE SHELTER LAST WEEK. WE REVIEWED THE MUCH NEEDED ITEMS THAT COULD BE DONATED TO THE CENTER. THOSE ITEMS SHOULD BE LISTED IN THE STUDENTS' PLANNERS. JUST A REMINDER... ALL TREATS AND/OR JUICE SHOULD NOT BE BROUGHT TO SCHOOL UNTIL THE DAY BEFORE OR THE DAY OF OUR FIELD TRIP. THE STUDENTS ARE VERY EXCITED ABOUT MEETING THEIR NEW LITTLE FRIENDS!**

# Here's What We Are Studying

## Math

I am so proud of how hard our students are working on learning long division. The majority of the students voted that they prefer the traditional method more than the partial-quotient method. We are making great progress! The use of graph paper helps keep those place value columns in line! We also make sure that the mnemonic: "Dirty Marvin Smells Badly" is written on the graph paper for a ready reference to the process!

- D (Divide)
- M (Multiply)
- S (Subtract)
- B (Bring Down)

## Writer's Workshop

### Focus: Research/Document Based Information Writing

I modeled how to set up a Word doc as a container for all Internet text, URL addresses, pictures, maps, and so on. Appropriate articles were also provided for further research. All Internet and article text used must be highlighted. If a book was used, notes should be taken in Writer's Notebooks. The next step is for me to model how to chunk out the subtitles/information that goes together by synthesizing the research information. From there, the students will "box and bullet" their paragraphs.

**Word Study** - Let's wait and start Sort 8 after the holiday.

**Weekly Writing** - The focus is on completing the two paragraph reading response for *Blood on the River* by Thursday and to start the prewriting for the Jamestown feature articles.

## Reader's Workshop

Our last *Blood on the River* reading and writing goals are for Thursday. Club members are to read through Chapter 27 and the Afterward. The final writing goal is to type a reading response.

**1st Paragraph:** Why did the author write this book? What are the themes or big ideas embedded in the personal lives and events of this time period? Use evidence from the text to support your opinion.

**2nd Paragraph:** Did you like this book? Why or why not? Explain. Be specific. What did you learn by reading this book? Use examples from the story to support your thoughts and comments.

## Social Studies

We reviewed the notes by cross-referencing them with the study guide, and we are practicing responses in the form they will be presented on the test. On Monday, we will go over the last topic on the study guide, the geographic locations, and continue to review. Our final review is on Tuesday. The assessment will be given on Wednesday. The students are reminded each day to take home their notes and study. Notes and the study guide should be at school each day. All students are always given as much time as they need to complete any assessment.