

# Newsletter

September 4th, 2015

**Joshua and Frances are practicing their story-telling and interviewing skills on each other.**



## We Are Still Getting Organized!

**Friday Folders went home on Friday. Look for the "Papers To Be Signed and Returned" form on the left side of the folder. Please review your child's weekly work and keep the papers at home. Please sign and return the form and any assessments noted on the form. Reviewing these papers is a great way to see how your child is performing. The papers can be recycled! Also, review and sign your child's Planner on Sunday nights. Your child might log reading entries on Saturdays and Sundays.**

**Look for the "Papers To Be Signed and Returned" form every week in the Friday Folder. I will alert you if this form does not go home.**

## Updates, Reminders, & FYIs

### This Week

- ✓ Monday - Labor Day - No School
- ✓ Tuesday - G Day - Chapel
- ✓ Wednesday and Thursday are A and B Days.
- ✓ Friday - Hopes & Dreams Conferences - No School

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR! 👁️

- ✓ Parent Night - Thursday, September 10th.

### FYIs... 👁️

The TTL access code, for downloading TTL to a home computer, was sent home on Monday. It should be written on the password page of the Planners.

Try this:

<http://ttl4.sunburst.com/downloads/>

If this link doesn't work for you, go to our web page. Then:

- FYI... Quick Access
- Software Download Links
- Type to Learn 4

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

# Here's What We Are Studying

(We will talk more about this on Parent Night.)

## HOMWORK GUIDELINES

Reading - 4 Times A Week

Math - 3 Times A Week

Writing - 1 Time A Week

### Math

The math assessments consist of Oral and Slate Questions, a Written Assessment, and an Open Response (problem solving) component. We thoroughly review and discuss the correct answers to assessments after grading them.

As students review their answers, they will code their incorrect responses. The goal is for students to take ownership of their errors and to celebrate their accomplishments! Look for these codes in green ink on the unit assessments:

- C** - Careless Error
- SD** - Slow Down
- FD** - Follow Directions
- I** - Incomplete
- ?** - I still don't get it!

### Writer's Workshop

In preparation for our first published narration, "Capturing Family History," I modeled how to select a very special small moment and record that moment in fragments and memorable language. The students then captured their own small moment in fragments. Then writing partners practiced interviewing and recording each others' small moments. The next step will be to retell each other's stories. What's missing? What do I need to add to enrich the story for an audience?

On Tuesday, we will go over the guidelines for this writing activity. In the meantime, our writers may need some help in choosing a grandparent, godmother/father to interview and record their story. Interviews may not begin until the guidelines are reviewed and discussed.

**Word Study** - Sort 2 was provided on Friday. The quiz will be on Tuesday, September 15th.

**Weekly Writing** - The students will be researching the Stone Age for their new weekly writing piece. There are four questions for the students to research and/or write about. Writers may make a poster, create a scrapbook, or create a digital presentation. The guidelines are archived below the newsletter for further review.

### Reader's Workshop

The goal this year is to teach our readers how to think and write with more depth. Using a short story, "Slower than the Rest," the students listened as I read the piece and then responded in their Readers' Notebooks to four questions.

Day two, I provided rubrics which showed thinking/writing expectations for 3rd, 4th, & 5th graders. One rubric focused on "Inferring About Characters and other Story Elements" and the other rubric focused on "Determining Themes." The students were able to clearly see the progression of thinking and writing from grade to grade.

After reviewing the rubrics, we revisited the jottings for each questions. Through shared responses and more intentional thinking, the jottings evolved into more meaningful jottings. That was the goal!

### Laptop Mania

Our historians set up their social studies notebooks with notes and artifacts. They completed two pages in their Bare Books that reinforce what they are learning in class. By the end of this week, the students will be ready to start reviewing. We will review on Monday and Tuesday of the next week. The "Prehistory" assessment will be given on Wednesday.