



Crestwood Elementary School

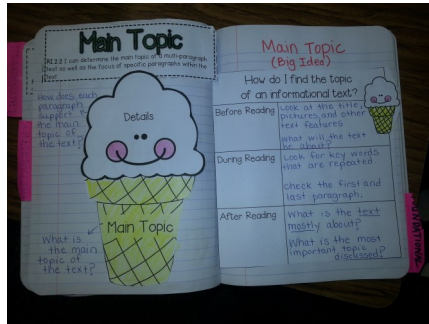
Mrs. Gariepy's Second Grade Newsletter

May 5th
2014

Reader's Notebooks

Second grade is LOVING our new reader's notebooks! As an end of the year project, we have been creating a reference composition book of the reading strategies we have learned this year. The book summarizes the Common Core State Standards using "I Can" statements and focuses on reading literature strategies (such as asking questions, re-telling a story), foundational skills (identifying word patterns, reading fluently...), and reading informational text strategies. We can use these reference books to remind ourselves of our reading goals. These books will be a great tool to have over the summer as your child continues to work on reading independently for understanding, fluency, and accuracy. I look forward to sending these home for you to see when they are done!

See a sample page here...



Important Reminders!

- Chalk Walk—**May 8th**
- Field Day—This Friday, **May 9th**
- Field trip forms due **May 9th**
- Relay for Life at NRMS—**May 16th-17th**
- NO SCHOOL May 26th (Memorial Day)
- **May 28th**—2nd Grade Downtown Rockford Field Trip (see homework folders!)
- **May 29th**—Whitecaps Game for PE Fundraiser

Science Writing & Lab Reports

We've shifted gears a bit and our current writing unit involves working on informational writing. Last week we started by writing up lab reports based on data we collected. Each lab report includes the following sections:

- Question
- Hypothesis
- Procedures
- Results
- Conclusion

We talked about how often our conclusions drive another experiment based on lingering questions we have! We spent time revising our procedures to be sure they included materials needed, specific precise steps to carry out the activity, and pictures/diagrams that explain in further detail. We looked at the mentor text Forces and Motion by John Graham to see what scientists often include in their own lab reports. We are only in the beginning phases of this unit, but I can tell that students are enjoying creating experiments, testing out their questions, and then recording their results. I am sending home their first lab reports today in folders. On their attached rubrics, I have only marked two items (circled with a purple marker). We will use the entire rubric eventually, but I have chosen to only focus on these two pieces in terms of "checking" this first lab write-up.



Science: Measuring Matters

Last week we focused on measuring volume and mass. Much of our time was spent using a pan balance to measure the mass of an item with gram cubes and to compare the mass of various objects. We learned that just because something has the same volume (for example: 1/2 cup of popcorn and 1/2 of rice), it does not mean they have the same mass (one was heavier than the other!) We also noticed that volume remains consistent, regardless of the container it is held in. 1/2 cup of candy is the same in a tall container as it is in a small container! If you are baking at home, encourage your child to help you as they continue to practice their measurement skills! Real-life application of science concepts learned is the best way to solidify understanding and engagement.



Math

This week we will be taking our unit 10 math test. We will review in class but it never hurts to review at home as well. :) This test will include the following concepts:

- Lines of Symmetry
- Temperature
- Counting by 1's in the thousands
- Solving "What's My Rule?" Problems
- Counting coins/bills
- Writing money amounts in dollars-and-cents notation
- Determining place value

MOVIE DAY!

Our class has been working on a reward system, and last week we reached our goal! As a result, we voted on a movie prize and this week on Thursday, May 8th, we will be showing the movie Despicable Me 2 in class. This movie is rated PG. If you do not wish for your child to watch the film, please notify me as soon as possible so that I can be sure there is an alternate activity available.



THANK YOU

Thank you so much to those that have spent countless hours and much energy volunteering at Crestwood and specifically in the Gariepy Gang classroom! Crestwood is a great place to teach and a great place for kids... in large part because of YOU and your generosity of your time and talents! Thank you!

