

Room 18 News Science

October 23, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian,

It was great seeing so many of you at the Harvest Carnival. Thank you to all the families that helped make this year's Haunted House so amazing! Your creativity wowed me. Your dedication to make it special for all the students is greatly appreciated.

Halloween

On Friday, October 30, we will be celebrating Halloween with a school wide parade at 1:30 p.m. Students should bring costumes to change into if they would like to wear it in the parade. *Please make sure your child's costume is appropriate for school. (Please remember students should not bring weapons, and their attire should not show anything violent)* At the end of the day, we will be having our fifth grade celebration.

Fall Conferences

Can you believe it is time to schedule Fall Conferences? Conferences will begin Saturday, November 14 and continue through Monday, November 23. Attached to this newsletter is a conference availability sheet asking you to mark an "X" on the times you cannot meet. Please return the form by Friday, October 30. I will be either emailing you or sending home a confirmation slip home with your scheduled time by Monday, November 2.

Readers' Workshop

In Readers' Workshop this week, we completed filling out our Question Tree for Reciprocal Teaching. Using our National Geographic Magazine, I modeled and guided students on using the Reciprocal Teaching Model (prediction, questioning, summarizing, and clarifying). I will be gradually releasing responsibility, so they will be able to use this strategy on their own with learning partners. In addition, we reviewed text features and started working on how to determine what information is essential for a summary versus what is interesting. Next week students will be taking their notes and highlighted sections and writing a summary. After we have reviewed and practiced how to write a good paragraph and/or summary, students will be ready to start Current Events.

State Project

Next week we will be starting our mini research project on the states. This project focuses on using researching skills, reading non-fiction, and writing a persuasive piece. Each student will be creating a state quilt, poem, and advertisement. Students will be selecting a state to research next week. Students will need to have at least one resource, a book, by Tuesday, November 3. Students will be given some class time, but will probably have to do some of the work at home.

Geography

Our next quiz on Geography terms will be on Thursday, October 29 on Set 1 - Set 8. In addition, you will find the quiz for the next section in our Red Geography books in today's Friday Folder.

We conducted our next investigation on earth materials. We have compiled the data and have started creating a line graph to show how each earth material's temperature changed in the sun and shade. Next week we will be completing our graphs, analyzing our results, and completing our write-ups. Through this experiment, we will be discovering how uneven heating of the earth causes air movements. In addition, these Science investigations have been a great way to integrate what we are learning in Math. For example, we have had to find the average/mean for a set of data as well as create and analyze line graphs and tables.

Math

As I mentioned last week, we have started our next unit in Math. This week we reviewed adding and subtracting whole numbers and decimals. In addition, we worked on writing simple algebraic equations and solving them. Today, we practiced using magnitude estimation to help us know if an answer is reasonable and/or makes sense. Moreover, students played two new games Top It and Bull's Eye. Next week we will focus on multiplication of whole numbers and decimals using several methods (clusters, partial products, lattice, and traditional algorithm).

Social Studies

We continued reading Sh! We're Writing the Constitution by Jean Fritz. This week we learned when the Articles of Confederation was written. Moreover, we discovered what the weaknesses were of this document, and why it led to the creation of the Constitution. We also learned how today's branches of government were initially proposed in what was then called the Virginia Plan. Next week we will be completing the book and focusing on study on the Preamble and Bill of Rights. We are also starting our activities linked to this unit. Today, students practiced writing with a quill pen. Students will be making a nameplate for themselves as well as creating their own hornbook. Just a little fact we learned as we read this week, James Madison took notes for the four months the Congress met using a quill pen. I don't think students understood the patience and time it took him until they had to write with a quill. As a student said, "I'm glad we have a pencil." Now, that's appreciation.

In our discussions about the Constitution, we are constantly referring to the first 13 States and/or Colonies. This is why I had students label a map showing the location of the original 13 Colonies (states), major geographic features, and which colonies were considered New England, Middle, or Southern. This background information will help students understand why certain states demanded different things based on their region. Students will need to study this map to help them for their quiz on Wednesday, November 4.

Please turn over ➡

In closing, Poem Test is next Friday, and you will find a scored rubric sheet for your child's Book Cube in today's Friday Folder.

Sincerely,
Grace Bunya

Gentle Reminders

No Homework Night	Tues., Oct. 27
Miss Bunya out	Wed., Oct. 28
Geography Quiz Sets 1-8	Thurs., Oct. 29
VIP# 15	Fri., Oct. 30
Poem Test	Fri., Oct. 30
Book for State Project	Tues., Nov. 3
Spectra Art	Wed., Nov. 4
13 Original Colonies and Geographic Features Quiz	Wed., Nov. 4
Introduce Book Project Genre: Nonfiction	Wed., Nov. 4
Geography Quiz Sets 1-9	Thurs., Nov. 5
Bagel Sales Start	Thurs., Nov. 5
Reading Logs due	Fri., Nov. 6
Book Club	Fri, Nov. 6
VIP# 7	Fri., Nov. 6
Veterans' Day No School	Wed., Nov. 11
Geography Quiz Set 1-10	Thurs., Nov. 12
No Homework Night	Thurs., Nov. 12
VIP Person - #6	Fri., Nov. 13
Book Approval	Fri., Nov. 13
Fall Conferences	Sat., Nov. 14
Book Fair	Mon.- Fri., Nov. 16- Nov. 20
Spectra Art	Wed., Nov. 18
Fall Conferences	Wed., Nov. 18
Geography Quiz Set 1-11	Thurs., Nov. 19
VIP Person - #20	Fri., Nov. 20
Fall Conferences	Mon., Nov. 23

FALL CONFERENCES

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I will be soon making my schedule for fall conferences, and I would like your input regarding convenient days and times. Please look over the schedule on the back of this sheet and **"X" out any times that you are NOT able to attend.**

This will provide me with the most flexibility in trying to schedule all twenty-three conferences. As soon as a final schedule has been determined, I will send home the exact time and day of your conference. Please return this sheet by **Thursday, October 29**. You may also e-mail the times you are **NOT** able to attend if this is easier. I look forward to meeting with you and your child to discuss his/her progress this year in fifth grade.

Sincerely,

Grace Bunya

Please return by
Thursday, October 29, 2009

Student Name _____

3:00 - 3:25 p.m.	
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Parent/Guardian Name _____

Wednesday, November 18

◆ Please indicate your preference.

Confirmation slip e-mail

e-mail address:

1:30-1:55 p.m.	
2:00-2:25 p.m.	
2:30-2:55 p.m.	
3:00-3:25 p.m.	
3:30-3:55 p.m.	
4:00-4:25 p.m.	
4:30-4:55 p.m.	
5:00 -5:25 p.m.	
5:30-6:00 p.m.	
6:00- 6:30 p.m.	

Meeting Conference Availability

Please “X” out the times you **cannot** attend.

Saturday, November 14

8:00-8:25 a.m.	
8:30-8:55 a.m.	
9:00-9:25 a.m.	
9:30-9:55 a.m.	
10:00 -10:25 a.m.	
10:30-10:55 a.m.	
11:00-11:25 a.m.	
11:30-11:55 a.m.	
12:00-12:25 p.m.	
12:30-12:55 p.m.	
1:00-1:25 p.m.	
1:30 -1:55 p.m.	
2:00 - 2:25 p.m.	
2:30 - 2:55 p.m.	

Monday, November 23

7:15-7:40 a.m.	
4:30-4:55 p.m.	
5:00 -5:25 p.m.	
5:30-6:00 p.m.	
6:00- 6:30 p.m.	

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