

Room 18 News Math

November 6, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian,

How wonderful it was to see so many of you at the Breakfast! I hope you had a chance to catch up with families and meet some of the new families that have joined us this year. Thank you to our Room Parents Jennifer Buenrostro and Gretchen DeAndre for organizing this wonderful event. In addition, thank you to all the families for bringing all the delicious food and drinks. What a great way to build community!

Social Studies

Today, students took their unit test on the creation of the Constitution. Next week, we will begin our unit on the Revolutionary War.

On Wednesday, students took their 13 Colonies Geography quiz. To meet standard, students had to be able to label a map showing the location of the original 13 Colonies as well as noting which were New England, Middle, or Southern Colonies. It is in your child's Friday Folder. Students that need to **retake** the test will need to be prepared to take it on **Tuesday, November 10**.

Book Project -Nonfiction Collage

This week, I introduced the new book project, which is an **informational collage**. Students need to select a **topic** and find a **book** by **next Friday, November 13**. Students will need to have **three focus areas** for their topics and at **least five facts** for each area. (Students will need to turn in a **second copy** of their paragraphs, so we can use them to write a 5-paragraph essay when we return from Winter Break.) This project is **due on Wednesday, December 9**. In addition, to help build vocabulary, I have asked students to complete a **Five New Words sheet with this project**. When they come across a word they do not know, they are to record the word and the sentence. Using context clues, they are to write what they think the word means, and finally, look up the word in the dictionary to make sure their definition is correct.

Readers' Workshop and Core Literature

Reading Logs were due today. We took sometime to examine them and to see how much progress we have made toward our goals from last month.

We have read the first two chapters in **The Sign of the Beaver**. Our class discussions have been thoughtful and engaging. I have been sharing my thinking aloud with the class, so they can see how I synthesize information. Next week we will review what a good paragraph looks like and continue using T-charts, double entry journals, etc. to help record evidence from the book that might help us when we write our paragraphs.

Geography

Our next quiz on Geography terms will be on **Thursday, November 12 on Set 1 - Set 10**. Our **Fifty-state** test is scheduled for **Friday, December 4**.

This week we continued to explore multiplication using whole numbers and decimals. Students learned a new method called lattice as well as practiced the traditional algorithm. Next week we will explore what happens when we multiply using powers of ten to a decimal number as well as begin reviewing for the end of the unit test, which will be **next Friday, November 13**. Students will be receiving a study packet on Tuesday.

State Project

This week I showed students how to complete a bibliography card for their state resources. Students will need to complete a bibliography card for each additional source they use for this project. Next week I will be doing a short lesson on how to evaluate if a website is reliable and accurate. Next week we will begin using class time to research our states. Please make sure your child brings at least **one resource** on his/her state. Students will be doing most of their research at school. However, students may need to work on the project at home. Their research for Pages 1 and 2 are due on **Thursday, November 12**.

Science

In Science, we have been discussing how uneven heating of the earth causes air movements. This week we performed two activities that demonstrated how pressure decreases with the distance above the earth's surface and that the pressure that is exerted is equal in all directions. In addition, using syringes students were able to explore how air can be compressed into a smaller space and that air exerts pressure equally in all directions. Next week we will begin our next unit on the water cycle and weather.

Spelling

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, I will be introducing new procedures for Spelling next week. The new Spelling procedures and words will focus on studying Spelling rules, patterns, and etymology of words, suffixes, and prefixes. Students will be choosing words from their Personal Spelling List and from additional lists that focus on a specific strategy and/or pattern. Students will be picking **FIVE** words per week. Our goal is to master the spelling of the words chosen so we are keeping the list short. Spelling homework will be focusing on a variety of ways (auditory, visual, kinesthetic, etc.) to help remember how to spell the words. There will be spelling activity packets available, but they will **not** be required.

In closing, conferences will start next Saturday, November 14.

Sincerely,
Grace Bunya

Please turn over ➡

Gentle Reminders

Please note these are tentative dates.

Dates and assignments may change.

Math Night	Mon., Nov. 6 @ 6:30 p.m. @ Duveneck
Veterans' Day No School	Wed., Nov. 11
Geography Quiz Set 1-10	Thurs., Nov. 12
State Research Pages 1 and 2 due	Thurs, Nov. 12
No Homework Night	Thurs., Nov. 12
Everyday Math Night Parent Information in Spanish only	Thurs., Nov. 12 @ 6:30 At El Carmelo
VIP Person - #6	Fri., Nov. 13
Unit 2 Math Assessment	Fr., 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
State Research Pages 3&4 and Rough Draft Poem due	Fri., Nov. 20
VIP Person - #20	Fri., Nov. 20
Fall Conferences	Mon., Nov. 23
Everyday Math Night Parent Information	Mon., Nov. 23 @ 7:00 @ Palo Verde
Thanksgiving Break	Wed. - Fri. Nov. 25-Nov. 27
Poem Test	Tues., Dec. 1
Spectra Art	Wed., Dec. 2
Miss Bunya out	Thurs., Dec. 3
50 State Test *Capitals are enrichment	Fri., Dec. 4
State Project (Quilt) due	Fri., Dec. 4
Geography Proficiency Test	Tues., Dec. 8
Book Project Collage	Wed., Dec. 9
No Homework Night	Wed., Dec. 9