

October 6, 2008

5H News

Non-Fiction Writing

5H began a bridges writing project this week. All students were assigned a bridge to research and will write a short expository piece about a bridge. We began with a trip to the Hunnewell library to review research tools, first and foremost – books, and then online encyclopedias and databases. All online encyclopedias can be accessed via Ms. Scott's website. I have bookmarked a number of websites on the 5H page as well. All research and writing will be done in class. We also had lessons on note taking and note making, (being an active non-fiction reader and asking questions as you read to generate more research ideas.) We also worked with sample articles for putting notes in your own words. Research, reading and lessons on non-fiction writing will continue over the next few weeks.

Upcoming Dates

October 6 CARE Assembly

October 8 Math Assessment

October 9 No School

October 13 No School

September 29 – October 10 ONE Reading Response due during 2 week period due to the holidays

Forms! Forms! Forms!

Be sure to return your child's NEO permission slip and math handbook permission slip.

Bridge Construction Updates!

5H tested straw bridges on Friday October 3rd. Be sure to ask your child:

- What was the design of your bridge?
How did it do in the testing?
How/why did it fail?
- What did you learn that you would apply to your toothpick bridge?

All 5H students have a bridge to research. We will continue our research next week. Ask your child what bridge s/he is researching. Research links are available on my webpage and on the library webpage.

We will be forming companies and starting construction of our toothpick bridges soon. Below is a calendar of dates and events so that you are able to ask your child what s/he is doing each day in bridges.

October 6 Road Mapping

October 7 & 8 Calculating mileage and fuel purchases, job applications

October 10-17 Plans, permitting, pre-build work

October 20 Groundbreaking!

(I will be recruiting Warehouse Operators soon!)

5H

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Mathematics

5H students are completing the first math unit of the year, *Number Puzzles and Multiples Towers*. At the end of this unit students will complete a formal, independent unit assessment, (what you or I called a test in school.) By now, you should have seen some of your child's work in the orange practice booklets. Your child has also had opportunities to review work. This one test is a snapshot of your child's learning and progress toward some of the number sense learning goals in mathematics. It is a formative assessment – a child's learning in progress. It is an opportunity for discussion with a child about what went well and what s/he needs to practice. *“Did you carefully check your computation? Was there part of the problem that you did not understand? What parts went well? How can I help you?”*

One of the greatest lessons we can teach children is the ability to self assess and set clear, attainable goals. Children, and adults, need to use a test as a tool for focusing on what a student knows and what a student needs to learn/practice. A child who can say, “I need to practice multiplication clusters or writing word problems to match an equation,” or “I don't know square numbers beyond 100,” knows what to practice. It is clear, specific and attainable.

As we move into a new math unit, the concepts from this first unit will be revisited in class. However, in addition, I encourage additional practice at home as needed, including the games Multiplication Compare and Division Compare. Have your child find factor pairs of numbers and explain how s/he knows s/he has them all. Have your child do mental math in the car or at dinner. “If you know 12×4 , what is 12×40 ? Or 12×45 ?” Have your child give you word problems that match an equation.

As always, if you have any questions please feel free to contact me.