



Friday, January 29, 2016

Weekly Class News

From the third grade class of Ms. Revelli

Teacher's Note:

Can't believe it is already time to say goodbye to January! What a month! Lots of work going on in here and new discoveries to be had by most all students! Starting this newsletter, I am excited to say that our weekly news is going to become a bit more student based, in the sense that they are going to be helping me write the first section, recapping the week through their eyes! This week, you will be hearing from Gen and Julia! "Last week was awesome! One really cool person named John Tulloch came to Havens and taught all the third graders about space. Chabot space and science center was also really awesome! Learning about the phases of the moon was amazing who knew a new was actually no moon at all! Well if you're looking for the big picture last week was awesome!" By Julia. **Dropping Marbles by Gen:** "At the field trip last week we saw and did some cool stuff. We learned about the moon and its craters. The craters were made usually from asteroids. We thought that to make craters bigger or smaller it depends on speed, size, and material. So we did an experiment, we had a bucket of flour with cinnamon sprinkled on top as the moon, and marbles made of different sizes, material, and ones that were exactly the same so we could drop from different heights. It was lots of fun. We learned about astronauts, spaceships, and lots and lots of really cool stuff while we were there. The Chabot Space & Science Center is the super awesome!" Third graders are encouraged to submit entries for me to add to our newsletter throughout the week! Looking forward to this new addition! **Science Wizard:** Last week, Lauren had a fun experiment teaching everyone about polyacrylates and what happens when liquid is added to the mix. Today Haylee taught the class about the density of corn syrup and when mixing food coloring in there, the syrup is so dense that it doesn't really spread out much! Hope you all have a fantastic weekend! Looking forward to seeing everyone Monday!

This Week's Focus and Standards:

Reading and Writing: Fiction reading, with an emphasis on character. Completing all written assignments up until this point as well as staring our Informative Writing unit.

Math: Unit 4, students have been working on telling time, elapsed time, as well as measurement, primarily focusing on the metric system, as well as fractions. **STUDY MULTIPLICATION FACTS!!!**

Social Studies/Science: "Sun Moon & Stars" & shadows

Upcoming Valentine's Day class celebration will be Friday, February 12th. More info to come!

Highlights

This week for **Writer's Workshop** we continued to focus a lot on our "Expert" reports, and they are turning out really well! I was really impressed with the progress made just today! For **Reader's Workshop**, we began our fiction unit focusing this time on *Character*. Our read aloud for this unit is the story, *Because of Winn-Dixie*, a story the relationship between a little girl, Opal, and her dog, Winn-Dixie, and everyone else she finds connections with. Our studies have been looking so far at trying to find patterns in our characters so we can make predictions that follow the typical story plot line. We have focused our attention so far to looking for patterns in things characters do, and what they say, to make those predictions to see how they will be able to handle whatever situations they may need to encounter in their story. We had a really good discussion as to how to do this the other day, and we came to the realization that books in the higher level reading bends have complex characters whose traits aren't very consistent throughout the story. Trying a book a little lower than their bend might be a good start for trying out this skill. When they are doing their nightly reading, check in with them, asking if they are noticing any patterns that their characters are displaying, things they often say or do. In **Math**, we had some very good lessons on fractions, more specifically, looking at different ways fractions are represented in real life. We began by using pieces of paper, imagining they were cookies or a tray of brownies, and they had to fold several sets of fractions. We also looked at another model of this as well, just so the 3rd graders aren't thinking fractions are only represented in one way. I am quite relieved with the fact that a majority of us have a clear understanding of the fact that $\frac{1}{4}$ is bigger than $\frac{1}{8}$! Check with your 3rd grader to see if they can explain this concept to you. **CONTINUE having your 3rd graders commit their facts to memory!** For **Science**, we tracked our shadows throughout the day, observing how they change with the location of the sun, and had a great trip to Chabot Space & Science, along with a fabulous presentation by Havens parent John Tulloch, Space enthusiast! We also took a had a good conversation about the Challenger mission, for it just so happen to be the 30th anniversary on Thursday.

M	Tu	W	Th	Fr
Feb. 1	Feb. 2	Feb. 3	Feb. 4	Feb. 5 Drake's Science Wizard Mad. Min
Feb. 8	Feb. 9	Feb. 10	Feb. 11 Open House! 11:55 dismissal	Feb. 12 Dorothy's Science Wizard Mad. Min Spelling Test Valentine's Day Celebration
Feb. 15 -----	Feb. 16 -----	Feb. 17 President's Week No School	Feb. 18 -----	Feb. 19 -----
Feb. 22	Feb. 23	Feb. 24	Feb. 25	Feb. 26 Tiago's Science Wizard Mad. Min
Feb. 29 -----	March 1 -----	March 2 Parent teacher	March 3 -----	March 4 Logan's Science Wizard Mad. Min Spelling Test