

Possum Press



English/Language Arts

With all the changes to our ELA curriculum, I want to thank all students and families for your support during our Lightning Thief unit. It was the first whole-class extended text literature selection that we have done at PCCS in fourth grade.

The students were supported when they needed it and many changes to deadlines were made as I received feedback from students and parents.

During small group work

students discussed comprehension and vocabulary, really taking control of their learning.

They began a major writing project, “The Lost Chapter” of *The Lightning Thief*. Last week students completed a brainstorming sheet and a story map to organize their stories.

In Writers’ Workshop, students engaged in Grammar

Boot Camp. The focus of Boot Camp was subject/predicates and nouns/verbs. They did written work and some interactive slate work.

Spelling tests are broken into three sections: sort, core, and content. There are five sort groups, and all students receive the same core and content word list. Be sure that your child practices the words by sorting and writing. The sentence work



helps students create sentences and use conventions of writing.

Dates to Remember

- 11/17 Coffee with Admin, 2:00
- 11/17 Holiday Bazaar drop off begins
- 11/18 School Board Meeting
- 11/19 Farm to Table
- 11/24 Conferences/ER
- 11/25 Conferences/ER
- 11/26-11/28 No School

Math Minutes

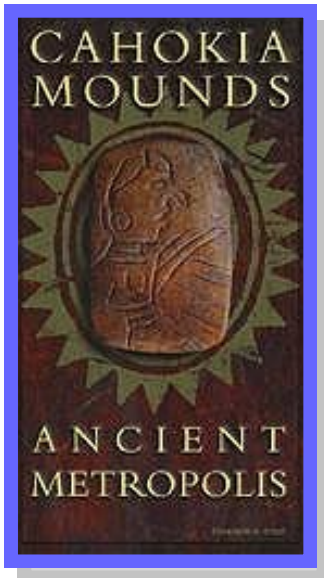
We are nearly done with Unit 3. The past two weeks we have been practicing using related problems and multiplication clusters to assist in breaking apart numbers into simpler forms and then combining them into final solutions. I also

introduced three additional algorithms: partial products, traditional, and lattice methods. The final unit test will take place on Friday, November 21. We will complete a review study guide that students can study at home on Novem-

ber 20.

Multiplication charts will be available to any student who needs it for the test. However, it is important that all fourth graders memorize multiplication facts.

Social Studies/ Science



As a concluding event for understanding animal adaptations, I was able to show photos taken of a beaver hard at work felling a tree in a local backyard! My husband knew of our unit and mounted his trail camera to a tree opposite a tree with evidence of beaver activity. The shots were amazing and the student loved them.

Our next adventure led us to prehistoric times and into the lives of Paleo, Archaic, and Mississippian Mound builders. We learned of their homes, technology, farming practices, and development of leisure activities (art and sport). We will spend a day discussing Cahokia Mounds, a preserved Mississippian mound city in Collinsville, Illinois.

For this unit we used our text, *Illinois, Our Home*. The textbook is a wonderful compilation of facts and text features. Students are encouraged to reread the content for deeper meaning. They may check one out if you would like to review it with them.

Outdoor Studies

"The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn"
 — [Ralph Waldo Emerson](#)

Our Outdoor Studies were put on hold last week because students were not prepared for the weather. When we are out for Magic Spots, Phenology, or field studies, we usually have some down time to complete

journals or recording sheets. Students frequently get cold when they are not active during writing. They need to have warm layers that include gloves and hats.

We plan to go to Magic Spots or Phenology each

Wednesday afternoon throughout the winter. Please be sure that your child has everything he or she needs to stay warm and cozy outside. Remember that there is no such thing as bad weather if you are prepared.

Coming Up Next Week



Next week is Farm to Table. On November 19, come to the barn and enjoy spring salad with broiled eggs, veggie stir fry with roasted pumpkin on egg noodles, and apple slices. Mouth-watering, don't you think?

Remember that we have conferences on November 24 and 25. Please sign up using the youcanbook.me link that was sent on November 14 to your email. Bring your child to help explain what we do. At confer-

ences, please be prompt and respect that there are other appointments. If more time is needed, then we can schedule an after-school meeting if necessary.