

Possum Press



English/Language Arts

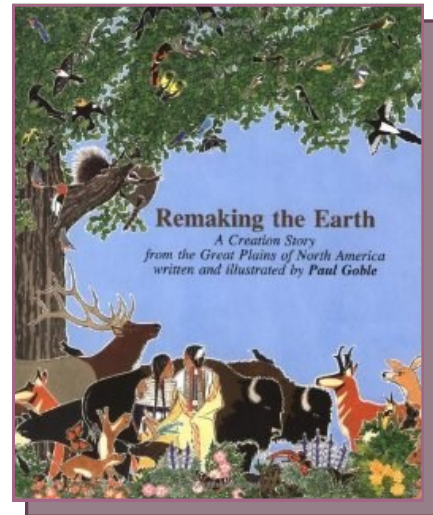
The last two weeks we returned to a more “regular” Readers’ Workshop with a focus on large group CAFÉ lessons and smaller guided reading groups. We used Miss Alaineus for vocabulary development and two Potawatomi legends for summarizing lessons. Next week we will summarize and then compare and contrast two traditional legends with one familiar fairy tale. All these skills are Common Core standards.

Guided reading groups will use informational texts to draw conclusions, summarize, and develop vocabulary.

Students completed their Lightning Thief lost chapter assignments. The Lost Chapters will be bound and available for every one to enjoy. Next will be a second narrative: students will be writing a legend using their Animal Spirit Guide. In this story,

Students will attempt to explain a natural occurrence such as: The creation of the [fill in the blank] or Why the [fill in the blank] has [fill in the blank]. We will use Paul Goble’s book, Remaking the Earth and various other legends and tales as mentor texts.

We will continue to visit the computer lab frequently for TypingWeb. Please find time for your child to practice keyboarding.



Dates to Remember

- 12/2 Green Challenge Assembly
- 12/3 Early Release
- 12/4 Holiday Bazaar
- 12/16 School Board Meeting
- 12/17 Early Release
- 12/18 Winter Sing/Band Concert
- 12/19 Holiday Party

Math Minutes

As we wrapped up the last math unit on multiplication, students practiced partial products, lattice method, and traditional method of multiplication. Unit 3 test was given on November 21. Look for the test to come home on Dec. 5.

Our next unit (#8) is also on multiplication. We will first cover making estimates for multiplication problems (2-digit X 2-digit), more cluster problems, and factor bingo. I will also introduce a “big array” method of solving 2-digit X 2-digit prob-

lems. We will make notes on this in the math notebook and on the student pages (blue and white). We will then use multiples of ten and breaking numbers down for other strategies.

Social Studies/Science



Students have been learning about the earlier native peoples who lived in Illinois. We learned of the Mississippian Mound Builders, the City of the Sun, Cahokia, and the Illini. Students also learned how the Illini were replaced by the Sauk Fox, and Potawatomi tribes as these tribes were

forced westward by the Iroquois tribes.

Daily life of the Illini included their housing, food gathering and farming, hunting, and spirituality.

I led the students on a visualization to find their spirit animal guide. Many of the students had heard of this activity and were

really pleased to finally do it! The guides ranged from the large (elephant) to the small (dove). We will then create legends using our guides as a main character and then make paper mache masks.

Outdoor Studies

When we show our respect for other living things, they respond with respect for us. - Arapaho

Our Social Studies unit on Native Americans encompasses an understanding of our human relationship with nature. Appreciating the important role of animals and nature in the web of life is embraced by the

Native American spirituality. They see the “maker’s” spirit in all life, giving thanks for everything that the Earth gives to us.

We hope to experience both Magic Spots and

Phenology over the next two weeks. To keep warmer, we will take both activities “on the trail” and hike to new places to experience difference locations in Prairie Crossing. Be sure your child is dressed for the weather!

Coming Up Next Week



As the holiday season comes upon us there will be many things to keep track of.

The Holiday Bazaar will be held on December 4th. We shop early in the morning and then return

for the afternoon shopping at 12:30. Be sure to return your envelope ASAP. Students will not be able to shop without them!

We will be having our holiday party this year

with a special theme: A Little House Holiday. This will be a pioneer themed day followed by a special party. We will need helpers to run stations, the party, and cook. More details to come.