



January 11, 2015

Ms. Hahn's Classroom Newsletter

Math

Last week during math the class learned about division. The students learned about division as sharing, division as repeated subtraction, and how to use a multiplication table to solve division problems. Next week the students will continue to learn more about division.

Writing

The students only had a short time to work on writing this week due to the snow days. During writing the class wrote opinion paragraphs. We reviewed the difference between opinions and facts. Next week the students will work on a longer opinion writing assignment.

Earthkeepers

Some students were absent before break when I gave out the "Y" key. I will award the keys after next week if all assignments are completed. Later in the school year, I will be sending home information to earn the "S" key.

Reading and Raz Kids

I would like to encourage all students to continue reading over winter break. See below about Blue Stem books. Your child can also go to <http://www.raz-kids.com/main/Login/reset/student> to work on Raz Kids. All students know how to log in to Raz Kids.

Reading

This week the students learned about themes in stories. Next week the students will continue to learn how to recognize the theme in a story.

Before winter break, most students were assessed on their reading level. I had the student read a book and answer questions about the book. You can find the type questions I asked on our class page on the school website. Due to the shortened week and the Green assembly, I did not test all students yet. I will finish my testing next week.

Social Studies, Science

This past week students learned about life in Illinois in the 1700's. They learned how the homes of French settlers looked and how the French set up their settlements. They drew a picture of the home and the gardens. Next week the students will learn about the French and Indian War.

In the next week or two we will also begin our study of rocks, soil, and landforms.

School Website

Please check out the new school website. You will find the newsletters and classroom calendars. I have also put a link for reading comprehension questions based on reading levels. There are some pictures of the students.

Username: PCCSparent
Password: g0Hawks*1415

Save Energy

January's Green Challenge is to Save Energy. We kicked off the challenge on Tuesday with our monthly assembly. Throughout the rest of the month, students will be thinking about ways to save energy at school and at home. Here are some ideas that we can't enact at school:

- dry some or all of your clothing on a clothesline or drying rack instead of using the dryer, and use cold water in your washing machine.
- use the stove and oven efficiently -- don't leave water boiling for extra time, cover pots with lids, don't leave the oven on when not in use, use the toaster oven when your items fit in there...
- when it gets warm, turn your air conditioning a few degrees warmer... you'll save a lot of money that way! (Same goes for keeping the house a few degrees cooler in the winter!)

Upcoming Events

January 12- 8:15 Coffee with Administration

January 19- No School

January 21- Early Release

January 28- Farm to Table

Big Bluestem Award

Prairie Crossing Charter School is excited to have our 3rd and 4th graders participate in the The Bluestem Award program (<http://www.islma.org/Bluestem.htm>) this year. It is designed to get students reading longer chapter books. There are 20 age-appropriate titles on the Bluestem list. To participate, students are read (or have read to them) a minimum of 4 of these books. At the end of February students who have completed a minimum of 4 books get to vote on their favorite one! We will tally the votes to see the PCCS Bluestem book favorite, then enter the votes for the official state selection of the Bluestem Award 2014-15. It will be fun to see if our pick is the state pick!

Please encourage your child(ren) to get excited about reading and voting! Winter break is a perfect time to curl up and read one or more of these. Many titles will be available in our classroom. Your local libraries stock extra copies of the Bluestem books as well. If you have any questions, please email Elizabeth Conlon at elizabeth.conlon@gmail.com.

The class read aloud book will be **Frindle**.

PARCC Assessment

This year the students will be taking a test on the computer this March called PARCC. I will be putting information about this test on the school website. Next week the school will be doing an infrastructure trial for this test. Later the students will be taking a practice test to better understand the format of the test. It is important your child continue to practice typing at home to be ready for the writing portion of this test.

Technology

The students were introduced to Google docs using our class Google account. All students will be sharing one account with only certain features turned on such as search and documents. The user name is hahn@pccsstudent.org and the password is pccshawks20. All work that a student creates should be in their own folder. We have discussed that the children are only allowed to read and open their own documents.

The other exciting technology event this week was using Chrome books in the classroom. The 3rd and 4th grade now have a class set of Chrome books to share.