



January 18, 2015

Ms. Hahn's Classroom Newsletter

Math

Last week during math the class continued to learn about division. The students practiced solving division story problems and writing division story problems. The students will have a test on Tuesday. The test will be like the study guide sent home Friday. They can also log on to their account at pearsonsuccessnet.com to have more practice.

When students are working on the math packet NO calculators should be used unless it is part of the directions. Students should try to one page a day.

Writing

The past week we continued to write our opinion writing piece. They read two articles to support their writing. One is about cats being a good pet and the other is about dogs being a good pet. The students worked on an introduction with a hook and planned out two paragraphs for their writing. The paragraph included a topic sentence and three supporting ideas and quotes. Next week we will work on the conclusion and the final draft.

Reading

This week the students continued to learn how to recognize themes in stories. They all were assigned to read a nonfiction book. They are completing a choice board for the reading response. The choice board includes assignments such as identifying main idea, identifying details, learning vocabulary, and many others.

All students also read an article from *Time for Kids* called "The Best Inventions of 2014". We discussed different text features of an article. Next week the students will be reading a nonfiction book during reading groups.

Social Studies, Science

This week the students learned about the French and Indian War. We will learn about the Pontiac War on Tuesday. They will have a study guide to study for the upcoming social studies test.

A favorite activity this week was learning about different types of soil and what is soil. They felt and observed four different types of soil. Next week we will continue to learn about rocks and soil.

School Website

Please check out the school website. You will find newsletters, class calendars, reading information, camp information, and information about PARCC. Mrs. Steinbeck put pictures and a student interview.

Username: PCCSparent
Password: g0Hawks*1415

Reading and Raz Kids

Please consider reading the Blue Stem books with your child at home or have your child read it on his/her own.

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.

Save Energy

For our monthly Green Challenge, we're still working on Saving Energy. Here are some discussion topics for at home:

- What has your class done about saving energy?
- Tell us about the thermostat guidelines at school. What are they, what do they mean, and how do they help? Should we consider setting guidelines at our house?
- Would we be prepared to spend more money to get energy from a renewable source? How much more? Why or why not?
- Does our house have energy-efficient appliances? How do we know this?
- Do you think scientists will solve the world's energy problems?
- What would happen if we ran out of energy, or suddenly had to use a lot less?

Upcoming Events

January 19- No School
January 21- Early Release
January 28- Farm to Table
February 4- Early Release

Big Bluestem Award

Prairie Crossing Charter School is excited to have our 3rd and 4th graders participate in 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 is [Frindle](#).

PARCC Assessment

This year the students will be taking a test on the computer this March called PARCC. There is information on the school website about this test. This past week we did an infrastructure trial. 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. All students also need headphones.

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.

The students are finalizing their first document about what they want to be when they grow up. Mrs. Steinbeck took their pictures and showed them how to add it to their document.