



Contact Me

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December 12-15, 2017

Important Reminders

NEW HASHTAG: #WINTER FUN (Please bring in pictures of anything winter and/or the holidays!)

- Christmas party information was sent home last week. We are asking that parents not attend this party, but please join us at the Clear Lake Sing-a-Long on Wednesday, December 20 @ 2:30 in the gym. We are making your presents and want to keep it a surprise! :)
- Library books - due Tuesdays (students can renew if they want)
- Popcorn is being sold every Friday for 50 cents per bag.
- Early Release Day @ 12:15 on Friday, December 22
- No School - December 25 until January 7 (School resumes on Monday, January 8)
- December Reading Log - due Tuesday, January 9, 2018
- Be sure to check out www.missrosenthal.com for class updates and a calendar. Please email or call if you have any questions and/or concerns.
- Please let me know ASAP if your child will be absent any days before or after winter break.



Reading Workshop - We continued our second reading workshop unit titled, Reading the Weather, Reading the World. This week, readers learned how to summarize nonfiction text and planned for a research project. They also read a Scholastic News magazine. Ask your child which nonfiction books he/she is reading in class. **Please remind your child that he/she should read at least 20 minutes each night and record it on the December Reading Log homework.** If you have any questions about the reading homework, including book levels, please feel free to email me. Thanks so much for having book talks with your child and encouraging him/her to read aloud nightly. The only way to become a better reader is to read! We will be checking reading logs every Friday, so please make sure he/she keeps it in the homework pocket so he/she can earn classroom economy money!

Writing Workshop - We continued the nonfiction writing unit about regions. This writing unit goes perfectly with our IB Unit of Inquiry (see below). Each student has one of the following regions: Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, Southwest, Pacific, and Rocky Mountain. They researched and wrote about the landforms, bodies of water, and climate within their region. We also practiced language and grammar skills. All of the research and writing of the report will be done in class. However, if your child would like to print off information or pictures from the internet and bring it to school, they are more than welcome and encouraged to do so.

Math - We continued unit 3, which is all about division of whole numbers. We continued to practice multi-digit division. They took a quick quiz and played math games. They took addition, subtraction, and multiplication quizzes. Please remember that math homework is due the following day and it is checked in class together. Students usually complete the "remembering" side in class and then they usually complete the "homework" side at home. All of the papers for the entire unit stay in the math pocket. The only homework is what is placed in the homework pocket and written in the planner. Please check your child's math homework using the answer key on our classroom website. Students must practice addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts at home for a few minutes each night. We are having timed quizzes on the facts (except division) each week. It is essential that students know the basic facts (+ - x) very quickly so that they can master multi-digit division, a 4th grade standard.

Word Work - We continued word study this week. There are three word work groups (yellow, green, and blue), which are based on the students' spelling level. Ask your child about writing the sort and the task card. The word work assessment will be next Friday. All word work is done in class, but each student will receive a list of their words to practice at home. Students are expected to know the patterns, how to spell the words, where the words belong, and apply those pattern skills to new words. We continued high frequency word (HFW) assessments this week. Please have your child keep the high frequency word packet in the spelling pocket. Each Monday we will write the test date next to the words. This week they had the assessment on words #61-65. I am noticing that students are still struggling with memorizing the high frequency words. It is crucial that these words are studied for a few minutes a night to ensure correct spelling when they are writing everyday. Thank you so much for all of your help with the HFW! Please remember that if your child gets 3 or more wrong, he/she will have HFW homework the following week.

Social Studies - Mrs. Waffenschmidt traveled to another mountain this week...the Matterhorn in Switzerland! Students quickly identified this landmark as a physical characteristic of that region.

Olweus Anti-Bully Meetings - We read a picture book and discussed how it related to anti-bullying.

Unit of Inquiry - We continued our third unit of inquiry, which is titled "The Dividing Line." The unit focuses on our central idea: Characteristics facilitate learning. During this unit we will focus on the regions of the United States. This week students learned how to divide the United States into regions and learned about human characteristics of regions. We watched videos about the Northeast and West regions and they drew pictures while listening to music from those regions. Students will have quizzes throughout the unit to ensure understanding of the concepts. Encourage your child to teach you his/her region notes nightly. The final summative assessment for this unit will be a region report. Students will be completing all parts of the report in school during writing workshop. Ask your child to share the region packet that we have been doing in class with you. We focused on the IB attitude cooperation this week. We read many books and learned about this word. They will create the quilt next week.

IB Attitude

COOPERATION
Cooperating, collaborating and leading or following as the situation demands.