



Room 2 News

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Important Reminders

#WINTERFUN (Please bring in pictures of anything winter and/or the holidays!)

- Students may bring in printed pictures for his/her region report. Please bring them in ASAP.
- Book Order - due Tuesday, January 24
- January Reading Log - due Wednesday, January 31
- Valentine's Day party was sent home last week. Please read this for party information as well as food items that need to be brought it. Email me with questions. Thanks!
- Lansing permission slips are in the Friday folder. BOTH slips and \$23 is due by Tuesday, February 13.
- Please email or call if you have any questions and/or concerns.
- Please make sure that your child is wearing appropriate clothing for outdoor recess, including coats, hats, gloves, boots, and snow pants.
- Be sure to check out www.missrosenthal.com for class updates and a calendar.



Reading Workshop - We continued our second reading workshop unit titled, Reading the Weather, Reading the World. This week, readers synthesized information from multiple texts and research their weather subtopic. Ask your reader what extreme weather event he/she has. Please remind your child that he/she should read at least 20 minutes each night and record it on the January reading homework log. I am going to check home reading logs each Friday. If you have any questions about the reading homework, please feel free to email me. Thanks so much for having book talks with your child and encouraging him/her to read nightly and helping your child find the levels of the books he/she is reading. Students took an online reading and math test.

Writing Workshop - We continued our 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. This week students researched and wrote about cities and tourist cities within their region. They also wrote an introduction and conclusion. We will complete the final copy next week. All of the research and writing of the report will be done in class. **However, if you 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. Optional pictures are due ASAP.**

Math - We continued unit 4, which is all about equations and word problems. This week students learned how to solve multi-step word problems. This is a difficult concept, but let's continue to encourage our mathematicians to really read the problems and think about the operations needed to solve them. There will be two quick quizzes next week. 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 4th grade standards.

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 and their last spelling inventory. Ask your child about the speed sort, blind sort, and gluing the sort. We took the assessment on 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 #75-80. I am still noticing that some students are 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!

Social Studies - Mrs. Waffenschmidt visited "The Little Mermaid" statue in Copenhagen, Denmark. We made connections to the Disney movie. She also went to African and visited the Sahara Desert. Be sure to check out the Little Passport games on our classroom website!

Unit of Inquiry - We finished 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. We took a few very short quizzes. We also discussed why people move and what causes regions to change. Students reflected on portfolio pieces and the unit as a whole. They will continue to work on their region reports during writing workshop. We focused on the IB Learner Profile thinker this week. After reading books, we made the paper quilt. Check them out in the hall!

IB

Learner Profile

THINKER

We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyze and take responsible action on complex problems.
We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.