

Room 2 News

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Important Reminders

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

- Please email me ASAP if your child will be missing any school in February due to vacations
- January Reading Log - due Wednesday, January 31
- Lansing permission slips were sent home last week. BOTH slips and \$23 is due by Tuesday, February 13.
- Valentine's Day party was already sent home. Please read this for party information as well as food items that need to be brought it. Email me with questions. Thanks!
- 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 learned how to read various types of text, grew research-based ideas by writing, tackled complex parts of text, and started to share their knowledge about their extreme weather topic. 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 periodically check home reading logs in class. 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. Please ask your child or the public library if you have questions or want more information about the 4th grade Battle of the Books.

Writing Workshop - Students worked on their nonfiction reports. They are creating the entire report in class. This will be used to help inform their informational writing grade on the report card. If your child needs additional research about his/her nonfiction topic for the nonfiction report he/she should get that and bring it in 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. They took a quick quiz on Monday and Friday. 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 writing the sort and the task card. 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 #81-85. 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 traveled back to Europe and visited The Leaning Tower of Pisa. They laughed at the photographs we saw online. We began a really fun project for Valentine's Day! Ask your child about the hearts. :) We also had a fish bowl electronic party!

Unit of Inquiry - We started our fourth unit of inquiry, which is titled "What in the World Are You?" This is my favorite unit because it is all about animals and our planet! This unit focuses on central idea: connections deepen understanding. We will be making connections about our learning throughout this entire unit. This unit lends itself perfectly to taking action by saving the environment! This week the students were introduced to the unit by watching a video about how wolves change rivers. Ask your child about the 4 C's activity. Students learned about the five traits of a habitat by creating visual models and synthesizing information. We talked about habitats and watched a few videos to enrich our learning. Be sure that your scientist is teaching the notes each night, so that he/she is prepared for quizzes and class discussions. We focused on the IB Learner Profile inquirer this week. Encourage your child to ask questions and TAKE ACTION to find the answers.

IB

Learner Profile

INQUIRER

We nurture our curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research.

We know how to learn independently and with others.

We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life.