

Newsletter 12

Happy Friday,

Science~

Biology was the topic of the week, the students read an article called Brain Bank. The article focused on the McLean Hospital in Belmont Massachusetts, where neuroscientist use donated human brains for research. They prep the brain for deep freeze, half of each donor brain is sliced and frozen. Researchers study its proteins and DNA. the students also learned that the brain is the only organ that could not be transplanted, and that this research has now given insight on schizophrenia. They have learned that schizophrenia involves several parts of the brain and many molecules.

Math~

~Percents- After reading about the tasmanian devils last week, the students continued to review and gain a better grasp on percents. They each showed their understanding with an exit slip to follow up with their understanding . I also had the students work on Khan Academy sections that focused on percents & decimals. Being able to tie in the different ways of review gave the students the full understanding and confidence they needed to grasp these concepts.

~Word problems

Each morning the students have been given different types of word problems and mental math problems that challenge them each morning. I think this has been fun for the students since it is something that challenges them but also gives them something to work for.

Renaissance~

Crispin~ While reading through *Crispin At the Edge of the World*, the students and I looked at what proverbs are and found some in our reading. “ To love a man, you must know his failings.” , “ I mock no man’s ignorance, but his ignorance of ignorance.”, and “ The man who must prove himself a man is still a boy.” are three different proverbs we found and interpreted as a class. We also chose to build connections between our exploration of the renaissance with our novel and the struggles of understanding and being free. “If i’m ever truly to be free, I must act for myself.”

Research papers ~ The students are working on their research paper of their second famous figure during the renaissance. The papers are due next Friday the 17th and students will be given the opportunity for peer edits as well as one on one editing with me!

Wonder~

As a class we are doing a group read of *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio. The novel has been a huge hit with youth reading groups and is now becoming a motion picture. The novel is about August (Auggie) Pullman who was born with a facial deformity that prevented him from going to a mainstream school—until now. He's about to start 5th grade at Beecher Prep, and if you've

ever been the new kid then you know how hard that can be. The thing is Auggie's just an ordinary kid, with an extraordinary face. The goal for our reading is to be apart of this pledge to learn to be kind to one another. As we continue to read we await for Auggie to convince his new classmates that he's just like them, despite appearances like he has already shown us as his audience. We plan on going to see the film after break once we have finished our read aloud.

~As a class we chose to pledge for kindness, on the back of each pledge the students signed their names and wrote why they believe it is important that we follow this pledge. We taped them to our cubbies so that we can see them each day and remind ourselves of the importance of being kind to one another!



Project Linus~

Our class will be participating in Project Linus, which provides security through blankets for all. The students should bring in their material for their no sew fleece blankets that we will be making the week we return from Thanksgiving break. I will be sending home a materials sheet that the students can use when purchasing their materials and the exact measurements they will need.

Cards for Kids~

The students have chosen to create cards for children who are hospitalized. This is mini service project that gives the students an opportunity to spread hope, joy, and magic to hospitalized kids across the country by making them uplifting handmade cards.

Reminder:

~Conferences next Thursday & Friday

~ Thanksgiving break starts next Friday the 17th @ 12 pm (Half Day)

Have a great weekend,
Ms. Alexandra

Love the truth. Let others have their truth, and the truth will prevail.

~ Jan Hus