March 11, 2014

Dear Families,

I hope everyone had an excellent weekend!

In vocabulary, we have learned volume, complicated, hideous, tremble, predict, shipshape, agony, and chitchat.

In Language Arts, we have been focusing on connecting with the characters in our stories. The last week in February, we looked specifically at the characters feelings. We discussed how characters feel based on their strengths, struggles, and events in the story. Last week, we continued to explore characters. We tuned into their feelings and looked even deeper to notice how characters are the same or different from one another. Students thought about the perspectives of characters and how characters’ histories inform their choices. They used clues from the text to understand characters deeply.

In writing, we started a new unit on personal narratives. The last week in February, we looked at how we can use author techniques to craft stronger story beginnings, how to describe character personalities and we looked at using comparisons to describe the physical traits of characters. Last week, we looked at how authors use words and phrases in their writing to make their writing more interesting and exciting to read. We also revised our writing using techniques learned from mentor texts.

In math, we started a new unit on money. We looked at the different coins, their amounts, and how much we have when adding various amounts together. We also did lots of word problems/problem solving with coins.

We paused on our social studies unit on economics to start our engineering and technology rotation. However, this rotation does go along with our economics unit. In engineering, the class worked together in pairs to come up with a good they could sell to consumers. We weren’t able to go to technology last week due to the weather so we will be making this up soon. Last week we continued with our economics unit and learned about borrowing, spending, saving, wants, and needs.

**Reminder:**

**Stem projects are due on March 27th!**

**Field Trip to Marbles is March 25th!**

**Spring Break Starts March 31st!**

Sincerely,

Tracy Pinero