

November 09, 2013

4th grade parents -

A wild and wacky week dress-wise, yet the children still worked hard and applied themselves academically as we finished units in every subject and had tests in Literature, Math, Social Studies and Science. I think that they are to be commended for demonstrating the ultimate in Ashley Spirit this week - the blending of some serious fun with serious learning! Thanks again to Blaise's father for helping us with our Native American dreamcatchers early in the week - we'll finish them up (finally!) this week in Art and take them home. They took longer than I thought, but they look great (an unbiased opinion offered by Ms. Tara) and are yet another example of "There are no Shortcuts" for the kids.

Conversation starters from the past week - ask about ...

- our games of "Scattergories" during critical thinking time - and why we decided that "turtle pee", "T-rex pee" and "tiger blood" all qualified as "Things you can drink" starting with the letter "T"!
- the Crossfit field trip and playing crossfit "Simon Says"
- how well they are doing with their keyboarding - hopefully you've seen it at home!

I've attached a few photos of some student activities this week during morning snack time - it's wonderful watching them rush to pull out the chess board, the yahtzee game, the logic games, and their drawing supplies. One student even cleaned out his desk this week without being prompted (although I think he was more motivated by looking for his squinkies than by cleanliness!)

Country* Project final reports are due Nov 18th, a week from Monday. I've told the students that by this Monday they should probably have their paragraphs completely thought out and their hand drawn illustrations, flags and maps completed so that they can focus on their cursive copying next week. They all tell me that they've been practicing their cursive at home for the past 2 months - if so, copying the report in cursive should be a breeze! Points will be deducted for any missing components of the final report - please review the website requirements with your child before they hand in their report (we will also be reviewing the requirements in class this week).

A word about homework grades ... over the course of the term, there will probably be 20-30 homework assignments in Math and Language Arts. Each are worth 1 point; if a child does not bring the completed homework to class the next day, they will lose that point. The effort to complete the homework is what matters - we go over and correct the work each day and spend time reviewing any questions that the students have trouble with. Homework points are entered

weekly into the gradebook, which means that if your child forgets 1 assignment out of 3 in a week, it will show up as an "F" in Jupiter; please don't worry - by the end of the term 1 missed homework assignment will still result in an "A" on the homework component of the grading scheme.

Have a wonderful Autumn weekend, and don't forget to have your child wear a poppy or something red, white & blue for Veteran's Day on Monday - the whole school will be honoring veterans and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance as the flag is raised at 8:00 AM. Please join us!

Mr. Mac