

2 March 2014

Parents -

As always, an eventful week in 4th grade!

- We finally made it to Asheville for an interesting and informative visit to the Colburn Earth Science Museum and the Art Museum
- the students worked hard to (almost) compete our class Red Cross stained glass globe & frame art project (it looks GREAT!)
- in our Writers Workshop, students have been crafting their own personal "legendary" stories using Jerry Spinelli's examples from "Maniac Magee"
- we had a great time in science measuring the volume and mass and calculating the density of various pieces of "matter" (including Jenga blocks, cubes of various substances, and railway carriages!)

Friday was the last day of February and students received their weekly pay and bonuses in our Classroom Economy. Those with balances in the bank throughout the month also got their first interest payments (10% of their minimum February balance!) Our monthly auction will be held Monday, and the bidding may be fierce based on the wads of cash some students have accumulated. On the other hand, some are considering saving their money now that they see the power of compounding interest!

In updating the Jupiter grades for Term 3, I noticed that the "Classwork" category of Math grades had a disproportionately high weight given that we have done less graded classwork in math this term. I have therefore combined the "Classwork" and "Homework" categories and adjusted the other category weightings to compensate. I believe that this results in a more fair math grade (and an improved grade) for almost all students.

The new distribution being used for Term 3 Math grades is: Classwork/Homework - 25%, Tests & Quizzes - 50%, Participation - 25%

I have also updated the online assignment calendar; this coming week we will have a Science test on Wednesday (Measuring Matter), and a Math test on Thursday (up to Lesson 55). We also have our 4th-8th grade Science Fair on Friday morning - parents are welcome to attend!

Finally, thanks to all our wonderful field trip chaperones, and a shout-out to the 4th grade boys who registered their first indoor soccer league victory on Saturday - Congratulations!

Please feel free to call or email me with any questions or concerns, and I hope you are all having a good weekend,

Mr. Mac