

**Weekly Update
Room 20
Fourth Grade
9-12-14**

Parents,

In your Friday Folders there is a yellow paper for you to initial. If you see a paper with NFG written on it that just means NOT FOR GRADE. Those papers are what we would have completed in class.

Language Arts:

We continued work with Unit 1 from Treasures titled, "Changes." This week we read a realistic fiction story titled, *The Adventures of Ali Baba Bernstein*. The kids really enjoyed reading this story about David Bernstein and his desire to change his name. As we were reading we thought about **Story Structure**. We paid very close attention to setting, character, and plot.

If you would like to help your students develop their understanding of **Story Structure**, you could ask them questions when you are all watching TV or a movie together. Ask them to tell you who the characters are, where the story takes place (setting) and what significant events take place.

I also formatively assessed your students in their understanding of the story and their weekly vocabulary. Look for a **green paper in their Friday Folder**. This will give you a better understanding of their comprehension and how they are applying their learned comprehension skills. This will count as a reading grade.

In **spelling** we worked with **the long a vowel sound**. Students will continue to take their post-test on Friday mornings. They will then take a pre-test (for the next week) later in the morning. Post-test grades will be counted toward your student's writing grade.

In **writing**, I have introduced the "**quick write**." Students will write in a **journal** (kept at school). When appropriate, we will take a quick write and turn it into a longer piece of writing. This is great practice in **writing to a prompt** and will prepare your students for longer essays. This week your kiddos responded to these **two prompts: What makes you happy? Write a letter to your mom and dad.**

Math:

Students worked with several "hands-on" activities that encouraged them to think about their place value. Earlier in the week they "build 1000" using different objects. Later in the week the kiddos worked with number scrambles that pushed them to critically think about numbers. Look in their Friday Folders for the activity titled,

“Number Scramble”. Next week the students will compare numbers and round numbers. I will also administer an assessment over their understanding of place value. A study guide will go home on Thursday and then I will assess on Friday.

Social Studies:

The students wrapped up their work with **California symbols**. We read to learn about symbols. When we were finished, we used a graphic organizer to record J.O.T.T.'s. **J.O.T.T.'s stands for Just One Two or Three (maybe Four) words**. I am trying to teach the kids that when they are note taking they do not write complete sentences. This will help the students as we get ready to read longer novels that will require them to sequence.

Our next unit is California Regions. Students will start their work with the regions next week. Next week I will attach the rubric and directions for our first project based assessment.

Science

Next week we will begin our first science unit titled, Living Things. We will experiment with observing and comparing different leaves.

The Leader in Me/7 Habits:

The students were not able to participate in the Morning Meeting two times this week (due to MAPS testing). I think that bummed the kiddos out. We were able to read the text, ***Ming Lo Moves the Mountain***. This is a story about a man who is proactive and takes care of his family.

The students have earned a “3” on every Discovery Lab report this year. A “3” is the highest score your child can earn. I am so proud of them. They consistently represent their families in best ways.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- MAPS testing took place Wednesday and Thursday of this week. Because of these test, we were in the computer lab for close to 3 hours. Your students were amazing! We will review these scores and what they mean at Conferences.
- Thank you all for attending Back to School Night. The first thing your kids did was race to their desks and read their letters that you wrote them. I appreciate your patience with me and I appreciate the time you took to write them!
- i-pads should be here on 9-22! This will be an exciting time for your students!

Have a great weekend!
Mrs. Dart

