

**WEEKLY UPDATE**  
**ROOM 20**  
**FOURTH GRADE**  
**2-28-14**

**Language Arts:**

This week we continued our **Treasures** unit titled, **Working Together**. This week we revisited the comprehension strategy of **Drawing Conclusions**. We describe this as: Good readers use the **information and clues from the text to draw a conclusion** about what they are reading. Students practiced this skill as they read two realistic fiction pieces of text about earthquakes.

The first selection was titled, "**Letters from Annie**" and the second was titled, "**The Earth Dragon Awakes.**" Both titles discussed how characters dealt with the great San Francisco earthquake of 1906. The kiddos are fascinated by earthquakes. I have included an earthquake folder on Edmodo with some video clips for them to watch (if interested).

Students continue to read about *By the Great Horn Spoon*. This week I assigned chapters 9 and 10. I will continue to assign a couple of chapters a week. It seems like the kiddos are finding their rhythm with their reading and responding now. I know whenever we try something new or different it can take a while to adjust. On this end, it has been fascinating watching how far the kids have come in budgeting their work time.

**Math:**

I assessed the students on their knowledge of **prime numbers, composite numbers, multiples and factors** today. This week we spent time reviewing these concepts and in centers. We continue to work on finishing up our "**Split the Bill**" project. Fingers crossed that they are done next week.

Next week we will start to work with and **explore fractions**. The word problems we are working on in class (at for homework) have encouraged students to think about wholes and parts. We have purposely not labeled parts of our fractions and gone into too much detail about them. Research is now showing that approaching the instruction of fractions needs to change and encourage students the opportunity to explore before you label.

**Social Studies:**

We have been working on organizing our **mission paper**. Thus far we have organized our research, written a list topic sentence, and written a lead. I am using materials and strategies that will help the students organize any expository paper. Next week we will learn how to write transition topic sentences. We will also complete a writing plan and write our essay.

In centers, students are creating a mission cover for their paper.

Our next area of study will be "Mexican Rule in California."

### **Science:**

Students continue to work with **California government** during their science time with Ms. Leventhal. They have a couple more sessions with her before they move on to Electricity with Ms. Oliver.

### **Conferences:**

**Conference week** is coming up (**March 10- March 14**). Thank you so much for your QUICK responses to scheduling! I know it is hard to take time away from work and appreciate that families are able to meet. Remember, this is a time for celebration... I would love the kids to sit in and help explain their learning. But, I understand if this is a meeting you would like to have privately.

### **Announcements:**

- Thank you very much for all of your hard work, dedication, and volunteering over the past couple of weeks! Between Digital Dash, Gold Rush, the Fourth Grade Performance, and Science Night your parent plates have been very full! Although the students do not yet “get” how much effort that requires on your part---I do. And I really appreciate all you do to support Room 20. There have been so many times this year that I have been in conversation with other colleagues just BRAGGING about how **WE have THE BEST parents in our room!**
- **Congratulations to Sydney Sylvester!** She will be honored as our Room 20 **Trustworthy** citizen at the March 7, 2014 morning assembly!
- **On MARCH 7, 2014 during the Friday morning assembly** the fourth graders will lead the school in a **Read Across America song**. The kids have been working hard on this with Ms. Barba. It is super-cute and worth video-taping...so make sure your phones are charged!

Thank you for all you do! I very much appreciate you!  
Marcie Dart