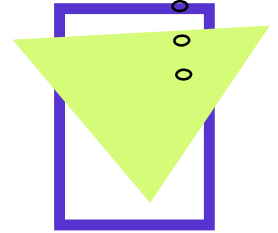


October 3, 2008

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4Si FourSight

Hunnewell
Elementary School



Conversation Starters

- Explain the "start with" strategy you are using in math to me. Why is this better than memorizing factor pair and its product, "tricks," rhymes, or songs?
- What does it mean to be a non-Newtonian substance? Cornstarch and water are non-Newtonian and so are polymers - let's see if we can find some polymers in our house so we can see what that feels like. Do you think polymers will have the same texture as the cornstarch mixture?
- How did you describe the setting in the "Black and White" story you just finished?
- Show me some examples of inference in a book we have here at home. I am interested in knowing how we can spot it in a story.



Mathematics

We are finishing our first unit on multiplication. In this unit, we concentrated on skip counting, breaking expressions apart, and using sets of easier combinations to solve more difficult expressions. This is important not only to assist in learning combinations to 12X12 automatically, but also to strengthen mental math and to start thinking about how multi-digit multiplication and division operations are solved. Our next unit covers collecting and displaying data, analyzing and comparing data, and probability.

Reading

Our focus in reading this month is on nonfiction. We will be comparing text features of news magazines, informational articles, and biographies. Students will record their thinking in letter-writing format. We

Wish List

Spray cleaner - We need five bottles of *Greening the Cleaning* All Purpose Cleaner please eMail if you are able to make a donation.

What We're Studying

continue to review strategies we have learned in previous grades (questioning, predicting, visualizing, and connecting). In October, we add the skill of inferring - understanding a character or setting better because the author gave clues instead of telling the reader how to think with words.

Writing

We are exploring the difference between a story and a personal narrative. We start by exploring the format of dozens of picture books. As we work, we will find commonalities and begin to craft our own definition of a person narrative. Students will choose a picture book that they like based on the author's writing style and we will attempt to use these admired qualities in our own writing.

Science transitions to Social Studies

The States of Matter Unit has come to a close. Our science lessons have been hands-on and have caused many

students to inquire and defend statements made around our experiments and content. Once again, the PTO brought a wonderful and engaging presentation by the Discovery Museum to share expert examples of how matter can change state when heat is added or removed. Students are showing their disappointment with the end of the unit drawing near.

Not to worry, social studies begins with the exploration of maps, maps, and more maps. The compass rose, longitude, and latitude become the students' friends as they plot locations across six-foot maps spread across the floor like quilts on a bed. Put away that GPS on your Thanksgiving road trip, your children will be able to guide the way.

Open Circle

Our work turns toward listening skills, dealing with annoying behaviors, and managing friendships this month. Watch for orange updates in backpacks.

A Few Notes

A Green Thumb

I have the supplies and a lot of sun. We need drainage trays for our pots and loving hands to get our mini gardens started.

Grade 4 In-Synch

As a grade the three classroom teachers meet weekly to discuss curriculum and pacing. We teach the same content and adhere to like goals and expectations. Of course, each teacher has her own delivery style.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://TeacherWeb.com/MA/Hunnewell/34S/plc.com>

All newsletters are posted online