

MRS. ABDULLAH'S

FOURTH GRADE UPDATE

The mission of A.F. Palmer Elementary School is to provide a child-centered environment where every individual feels safe, nurtured, and valued and the students, staff, families and community work together to inspire each learner to reach his or her full potential.

Reading

This week we extended our note taking strategy for understanding informational text to historical fiction. We discussed how historical fiction is grounded in fact, but has fictional characters and events. We used our Fact, Question, Response chart to record our thinking about an historical text just as we had used it to record our thinking about informational text last week.

We continued to use this FQR chart in guided reading as well.

Math Facts:

Thanks to those of you have been practicing facts at home with your child. Our multiplication and division facts are really improving. Don't forget about subtraction and addition, though, as students still struggle with these as well.

Math

This week we continued with our fraction unit. We spent time using counters and egg cartons to explore parts of a set. Students used these manipulatives to identify $\frac{1}{3}$ of 12, $\frac{1}{4}$ of 12, $\frac{1}{2}$ of 12 etc. We focused on looking at the eggs as equal groups that make up the whole carton instead of individual eggs. This allowed them to see, for example, that $\frac{1}{3}$ of a carton of eggs would be 4 eggs and $\frac{2}{3}$ of a carton would be 8 eggs.

We also worked a bit with equivalent fractions. We played the uncover game with our fraction strips which forced children to trade fraction strips. In this way they could see that $\frac{1}{2}$ was equivalent to $\frac{2}{4}$, $\frac{4}{8}$, and $\frac{8}{16}$.

Calendar Changes:

February 17th will now be a day of instruction

March 16th will be a regular day of instruction

NEWSLETTER DATE: FEBRUARY 3, 2012

Social Studies/ Science

We continued to work with our unit on animal adaptations. We continued to use informational text this week in guided reading related to adaptations. We also talked about endangered and extinct animals. The students worked with vocabulary related to this unit as well. There will be a test on this unit next Tuesday. Students brought home guided notes to use as a study guide today.

Student Teacher:

Ms. McAvoy started this week. For her first week she mostly observed, but next week she will teach a few lessons in spelling and word study. Throughout Ms. McAvoy's time here I will be staying with the class during instructional time, but she will lead some lessons. She will be given more responsibility gradually over time. I will remain with the class, though, which will give me the opportunity to work one on one or in small groups with students, while supervising her as well. Ms. McAvoy has attached a letter of introduction to our newsletter.

Writing

This week we focused on responding to a text that has been read aloud. We practiced note taking strategies for listening selections and we practiced writing extended responses using those notes to provide us with text evidence. The students also analyzed their own writing as they always do with extended responses.

Box Tops:

I received several Box Tops sheets this week. Thank you and please keep sending them in as you get more.

IMPORTANT DATES

Report Cards	2/3
Gertrude Hawk Kick-off	2/10
NO SCHOOL	2/20
Gertrude Hawk orders due (delivered on 3/23)	3/2