



October 8, 2009

An Update from Mrs. Durkin's Class

Dear Families,

I can't believe it's already October! We've spent a lot of time getting to know each other and setting up routines and expectations so our classroom is a productive learning environment that runs smoothly.

In **Math**, we've reviewed factors, multiples, prime numbers, and square numbers. Our current focus is on multiplication and division algorithms. Students have had an opportunity to practice a few different methods and are choosing the one that is easiest and most efficient for them. They've practiced these skills using a variety of math games as well as the ActivBoard!

In **Reading**, we have finished one of the Core Literature novels, Hatchet, by Gary Paulsen. The students have really been enthusiastic about this courageous adventure. Students have also been working on a Book Sell from their summer reading lists. We'll be sharing these over the next couple of weeks.

In **Writing**, we have been learning various strategies to improve our personal narratives. Students have been focusing on writing "seed stories" that zoom in on their topic and go into specific detail about a small moment that is important to them. They are using a variety of strategies to revise their writing and make it the best they possibly can. I'm very impressed with the fabulous writing I've seen so far.

In **Science**, we have been exploring the wonderful world of weather! We have been keeping a daily record of the data for Sudbury's weather and discussing the different parts of weather and how we can use that information to make more accurate predictions. We'll be putting together a weather report to share at school meeting on Wednesday, October 28th.

The Job Letters have been passed in to Mrs. Jay for 5th Grade jobs and assignments of jobs will be coming out soon. I read over the letters and it was evident how excited and committed these students are to serve their school. Courtyard has been a huge success so far. I am so proud of how responsible they have been with this privilege.

As always, feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

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