



## Mrs. Samarco's



## October Newsletter



### **Math**

Monthly math can be a blast (try saying that ten-times fast)! The children have taken colossal steps forward with their multiplication and division strategies in the math department. I have gone over many different division and multiplication strategies in class and the children have been striving to utilize the strategies that they are most comfortable using. Partial-quotient is a brilliant strategy with understandable steps, that anybody can learn, if you know multiplication clearly. The children have not only been learning strategies but applying them in their problem solving. We will continue to work on multiplication and division, as it will be an ongoing practice throughout the year, but we are diving into a new unit in Geometry. In this unit the children will be working with 3-D shapes as well as finding the volume of a figure. Be on the lookout for more information regarding geometry in the next newsletter!

### **Reading**

We continue to read *Sign of the Beaver* as a whole group as well individually. As stated in September's newsletter, the children are working with new vocabulary, writing responses after they read, and answering comprehension questions.

The children are also working on book sells and book reviews. You may have seen the book reviews that they did at Open House but they also have done another in class and are going to type both into the book review records so others can read them. For the book sells, they tried to "sell" their book, or in other words, try getting other people to want to read their book. They tell the class why they read the book, read them a summary as well as a section from the book to get them interested!



## Writing

In writing, the children have recently finished their personal narratives. Personal narratives are small moments that they focus on and turn it into a bigger story! The children have been working on creating a catchy opening that makes the reader want to keep reading as well as an awesome ending that leaves the reader feeling satisfied. They have completed steps to make a personal narrative, drafting, peer conferencing, (which requires them to read their paper to a partner, asking their partner to respond. Their partner helps them to find parts of the story to expand upon in order to make the piece longer and more descriptive), revising, editing or proof reading, peer editing, teacher conference, and publishing....and then finally, they are done! It has been a long process but they have written such beautiful pieces! If you want to see our class' personal narratives, they are on the bulletin board outside our classroom!

## Social Studies



This month we have been learning a lot in social studies. So far, they have learned about

the Mayans and Aztecs having quickly moved onto the Incas. They have learned about the location of where these groups lived, the political structure (government) of each society, the religious practices, as well as whether or not the societies had slaves. Ask your child if they know what a conquistador is and what their goals were? They were very interested and even a bit disgusted to learn about the human sacrifices made by each group...ask them to tell you about them!

## Science

We have quite the marvelous meteorologists in our classroom! This month they have been focusing their attention on weather. They have been striving to memorize each category on their current conditions chart. They've also been trying to memorize each tool of measurement that goes with each category. The children have been focusing on the water cycle and the states of matter. The three states of matter that they have been studying are: solid, liquid, and gas. They are really focusing on the words that describe a solid changing to a liquid, a liquid to a gas, etc. They reviewed that a water cycle repeats and has three parts; evaporation, precipitation, and condensation. Stay tuned for next month's science report!

## *A few notes from Mrs. Samarco*



- ♦ *Conferences are coming up!! I look forward to meeting with you! If I have not done so already, I will be e-mailing you a week prior to your conference as a reminder.*
- ♦ *Behavior~We have been quite the chatty class lately. Hopefully, it is going to end along with our Halloween celebration, however, it would be much appreciated to speak with your child about appropriate and inappropriate times to talk. Ask your child to share with you how we are going to fill our popcorn jar in order to receive class reward!*
- ♦ *The weather is going to be getting very cold!! Although it is hard to part with the summer clothes, please make sure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather!*

*Mrs. Samarco*