



December 14, 2007

An Update from Mrs. Durkin's Class

Dear Families,

It's hard to believe that it's already the middle of December! Winter break is quickly approaching and is deserving of some celebrating for a very successful first trimester. We will be having a "Colonial Celebration" to go along with the Social Studies curriculum that is being covered. The celebration will be on Friday, December 21st at 11:00. If anyone would like to volunteer to make a colonial dish, you can contact Mary Hardwick or Susan Thomas, who have a variety of recipes.

In **Math**, we've learned about number and picture patterns as well as an introduction to Algebra concepts. We are now in full swing with our geometry unit and will be learning about the attributes of different polygons as well as 3-dimensional figures.

In **Reading**, we finished reading The River, which is the sequel to Hatchet. Students enjoyed the continuation of Brian's journey and were even eager to read some of Gary Paulsen's other books. I've noticed a lot of students reading some of them as independent reads! In Guided Reading, we have continued learning about the different text structures in fiction and non-fiction books. We have also done some work with cause and effect as well as characters and plot. Students will have the opportunity to meet with other students on Fridays to discuss their independent reads and recommend the books they are reading to others in the class.

In **Writing**, we have brainstormed several ideas for personal essays in our writing notebooks. Students have been working hard on noticing the world around them and coming up with thoughts and ideas about the lives they are living. Students are now working on crafting their thesis statement along with 3 examples to support their main idea.

In **Science**, we are wrapping up our study of weather. We have taken a trip through the water cycle as a water molecule and have learned about the different forms of precipitation, types of clouds, and layers of the atmosphere. We will begin our unit on Chemistry following winter break.

Have a wonderful winter break, and as always, feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your support,

Amy Durkin

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