



DECEMBER 2007 NEWS

ABDAL-KHABIR CLASS

Thanks so much to all of you for meeting with me last month. I relish the opportunity to talk with

you about your child. I hope that you shared your child's report card with him/her and helped them to realize their successes so far this year. I also encourage you to revisit the things that we discussed in terms of areas in need of improvement. Our next term will close by mid March - it'll be here before we know it!

Reading: We continue to meet in reading groups each week. Ask your child which book they just finished; was it...

Stuk's Village?
The Inspiration of Art?
The Kudzu Invasion or
Adventure to the New World?

Also, we'll be wrapping up two OTHER books in the next few weeks; My Side of the Mountain (which students have been listening to on CD in class) and A Stranger Came Ashore (which we are reading together as a whole class study of literature). Ask your fifth grader about the main character in each of these two stories AND what genre each book is. Do either of these two stories have anything in common? You'll see some homework soon that will have to do with these books, too!

Writing: We've been diving headfirst into essay writing! Since we finished our first writing unit on Personal Narrative and exploding small moments (which you have seen on the bulletin board outside of my room), we've been focused on choosing a "big idea" that matters and trying to write about that. This format may be a little bit more challenging for your fifth grader - but I think what they'll produce in the end will be wonderful!

MATH: We've been plugging away at those math facts and you can see how much it helps when it comes to the multiplication and division algorithms using bigger numbers!

We've also been analyzing ALL KINDS of data recently - how many people at your Thanksgiving dinner? How many states have you visited? How long can you balance on one foot with your eyes closed? etc. See if your child can explain the 3 different types of averages that we've learned AND what the difference is between mean, median and mode!

Social Studies: Those explorer projects were fantastic! Not bad for a first long-term project. You guys are almost ready for middle school.... Mrs. Miller is cruising through time with a large focus on ancient cultures of Aztec, Maya and Inca and now focusing on the earliest of colonial settlements in Plymouth and Jamestown. I have to admit that I do miss teaching social studies sometimes. I LOVE teaching all that stuff!

Science: Well, it certainly seems like winter is here and it feels so good to still be focusing on the weather! Our class' Thanksgiving Weather Forecast was a hit! We're finishing up our unit with a quick look at types of clouds, the layers of the atmosphere AND the difference between climate AND weather. Our final weather quiz will be sometime shortly after the winter break...

Speaking of BREAKS: I hope that all of you enjoy a happy and healthy arrival of our new year and that you take time out for family and friends. I'll let you know all about my vacation in January!

Happy New Year!