

April Newsletter

Mrs. Miller's Class

Another month has flown by! Can you believe it is already April? We have accomplished so much, yet still have so much left to do.

Social Studies has been an exciting topic this month, as the students learned about the major battles in the Revolutionary War and their significance in American history. Currently we are learning about the U.S. Constitution and the framers who worked cooperatively to create it. Ask your child to tell you a little about James Madison, George Washington or Benjamin Franklin.

We have finished reading The Sign of the Beaver, by Elizabeth George Speare. However, we are still working on at home projects and classroom activities relating to the book. We will begin working in different guided reading groups, with new books, once we have completed our The Sign of the Beaver assignments. Have your child share his/her thoughts about our read-aloud story, A Stranger Came Ashore by Mollie Hunter.

After mastering fractions and percents, we are moving on to a fractions and decimals unit in math. Please keep fractions fresh in your child's mind, by asking him/her to assist you at home with doubling recipes or any other activities involving fractions. As always, if your child is having any difficulty with math homework, refer him/her to the notes in the math notebook, which should be traveling back and forth between school and home each day.

Poetry continues to be our unit of study for writing. After great success with "Where I'm From", the students have written other pieces using figurative language and descriptive verbs and adjectives. In the next few weeks, they will revisit all the poems they have written and will revise, edit and publish them. You will be pleasantly surprised by the finished

products!

Chemistry work continues in science. The students have done many experiments to learn the properties of various substances. Ask your child to explain the activities done in class with "Mystery Powders".

Spring has brought many changes. D.A.R.E has begun, the courtyard is open and our English Language Arts MCAS has been completed. Please encourage your children to dress in layers for school. The temperatures within the classroom may vary dramatically from the outside temperatures.

Fifth grade teachers are working hard not to let "Spring Fever" impact the quality of our students' work. We have been reminding them that even though we have many end of the year activities, we are expecting that they put forth their best effort in the classroom all year long. As the warm weather arrives, you can help at home by keeping homework a priority over extra curricular activities. Thank you in advance for your efforts!

***Fifth grade lunch and recess are EXTREMELY short of parent volunteers. Please help if you can! The fifth grade teachers greatly appreciate it.

Enjoy the warmer weather,

Mrs. Deana Miller