



The Community
School of Davidson

Oct. 5, 2012

Mrs. Fisher,
Mrs. Lavella, &
Mrs. Tinnell

Theme Study

This week we wrapped up the unit, "Our Universe." We spent more time looking at the Earth's landforms in centers. The children were asked to create an island. The island was given a theme (ex. Kitty-cat Island, Butterfly Island). Then it was given at least five landforms named based on the theme (flutter-flutter river). This proved to be a big undertaking as we had to combine both our knowledge and our creativity, but the outcomes are wonderful! We can't wait to share these with you!

Literature Circles

We had wonderful discussions with this first round of literature circles. I was so impressed with the children. They remembered key ways to keep the discussion as well as ways to keep everyone involved. They really seemed to enjoy the books. Next week, please reread the book with your child and discuss the question in the folder. We will discuss it as a group on Thursday.

Odds & Ends

Mark Your Calendar:

- Oct. 11 - Olde Knox Commons
- Oct. 25 - Early Dismissal, 11:30
- Oct. 26 & 29 - No School, Teacher Workday

Wish List:

- We have everything we need!!!

Homework:

- Independent Reading (30 minutes a day)
- Complete at least one activity from the word study binder to practice this week's words.
- Literature Circle - Reread/discuss question
- Word Sort Daily Activities (See binder)
- Math pages

Word Study:

- This week we started our new third grade words. I was excited to see how well they could apply the phonograms to spell these words at the start of the week. We continued to notice homophones in our daily reading and writing, as well.

Links to Literacy

This week we discussed the meaning of the word "schema." We learned that our schema are all the things we know, we've done, we've experienced, and are interested in. We had a discussion on how a spider web was like our thinking. They came up with some really fabulous ideas. "Just like everything sticks to a web, our thinking sticks to our brain." "Each line of the web is one part of the text, but it all connects to tell a story." I explained that they had to use their schema to make the connection between the two things.

We worked hard in writer's workshop as each child put together all the great ideas of their personal narrative into a discovery draft. They wrote these as little mini-books. As they finished, we conferenced with each child, guiding them to focus on those key elements of personal narrative writing. As you can imagine, this has been a big undertaking, but well worth the time. Next week we will edit and publish!

Math Minutes

We continued to work with graphing this week. We focused on line plots. We learned that line plots are used to show numerical data. For example, how many siblings do you have? The children began by creating two line plots as a class. Later in the week, they came up with a question and surveyed another class to collect data. Once finished, they created a line plot to show their findings. We used the terms range, median, and outlier when we were describing our data. Ask your child to tell you what these words mean.

We are going to begin our unit on measurement next week, while continuing to practice with data collection. In third grade we will review inches, foot, centimeters, and meters. We will also learn about capacity measurement (liters and milliliters) and weight (grams and kilograms). We are also working with telling time each week. Please continue to practice this with your child.