

Friday, December 19, 2014

Dear Parents and Students,

Between last week and this week, we have hopefully gotten through the worst of our seasonal sickness. I'm starting to think that maybe gargling with Lysol isn't such a bad idea- lol! Here's just a few updates.

- There will not be a vocabulary/word skill quiz on Monday, January 5. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! A hard copy list will be sent home when we return, but the words are posted on weebly in case you have "nothing" to do over break. Our quiz will be on January 12.
- I have attached Fluency Phrases to weebly (English/Language Arts tab; Reading; Fluency Phrases) for anyone and everyone. These are phrases that can help us read with improved prosody, or an appropriate speed and voice inflection. Good or bad fluency directly reflects our ability to understand what we read. There are six levels, and each level has a beginning and an advanced set of phrases. Each level offers more challenging words and length of phrases than the one before. In class, we talk about reading too fast, too slow, and or robotic-like. We are looking for the "Goldilocks" in our reading- "just right". I told the kids about them, but I did not get a chance to demonstrate the use of these phrases. I encourage all of the students to work on them. Recording our voices as we read aloud and playing back our reading is also a great strategy to help us become better readers. Good luck!
- Lots of time to read over break. Keep up with your AR reading logs. I sent home your current points and comprehension on Wednesday. You will only have nine days when we return to make your reading goals. Many of us are reaching our point goal, but we want to make sure we are reading well to reach our comprehension goal. This is a tough goal to meet as third graders because we are either transitioning into chapter books or longer chapter books. At this point we are building our endurance to keep our interest and our thinking about what we are reading as we read. It is very common to see our comprehensions drop a bit as we grow into older readers.
- Mrs. Carter, Mrs. Scully, and I gave dice (five different colors- each color can represent different place values to 10,000) and a deck of cards to each child in hopes they use them to practice various math skills. I have placed a website on our weebly that gives the kids lots of game ideas, and all of the games can be modified to meet our individual needs. Have fun and keep rollin'.
- We will be conducting a hat assembly-line experiment, so lots of newspaper is needed (no advertisements or supplements). Please send in what you can when we return. Thanks in advance.

Happy holidays! Stay healthy! See you next year.