

# Thornton/Yelle Newsletter

9/29/17

## The Reading Corner...

We are close to finishing our classroom read aloud Because of Winn-Dixie. Students have enjoyed creating connections with the characters and discussing character development throughout the novel. We have explored the different themes of the read aloud and made different reading and writing connections. During our comprehension discussions we have practiced our retelling skills, and how to make a mental movie while reading. Students have also been able to sequence the stories with their retelling skills, using transition words such as first, next, then, and last.

## Writers Workshop...

We have identified as authors how do develop "seed" ideas for our stories. All of our lessons this week have focused on the idea that stories are generated from a small idea, or a small moment in time. Students will begin to add rich detail and fictional elements to develop their realistic fiction stories. Students have brainstormed a list of their own small moments in their lives and are beginning to develop their stories.

## In Math This Week...

Our little mathematicians have been working hard to read and express multi-digit numbers in different ways. We have learned that we can read and write numbers in standard form, word form, and expanded form. Each student got their own dry erase place value chart to help them practice reading and writing big numbers. We also practiced putting some of the tallest mountains in America in height order. This helped us prepare for next week when we will be practicing comparing multi-digit numbers!

## Important Dates and Reminders

The kiddos are doing awesome job improving their math fact knowledge! Keep up the great work at home!

- Field Trip 10/5/17
- October 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> – No school
- New lunch option: Pizza Power Pack

## In Social Studies and Science This Week...

In Social Studies we hopped on the train and began our journey around the Northeast region. The kiddos are reading articles to learn more about the landmarks, environment and climate of the Northeast Region. Students worked with partners or in a small group to read and highlight the important information. As they read with a partner they were challenged to stop and talk about the information they were reading to help them better understand and remember it!

## Conversations Starters

1. What is the difference between word form, expanded form, and standard form?
2. What is an interesting fact you learned about the Northeast region?
3. Can you retell the story of *Because of Winn-Dixie*?
4. What is the difference between a watermelon and a seed story starter?