

December 4, 2009

5 / 6 Weekly News

Students want to do a Secret Santa activity this year. They voted to buy five small gifts (no more than \$1.00 each). Please let me know if this is a hardship for your family.



Above: Students work on their structures during math.

Math

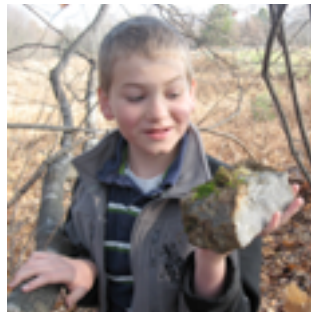
Fifth and sixth graders are in the midst of an exciting geometry unit. In addition to working in the Everyday Math program, students are designing structures using specific geometric criteria. They have designed structures in two dimensional format, which they are now building into a foam board structure. The final building project in the unit will be construction of a gingerbread house.

Language Arts

We have a new read aloud book; Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key, by Jack Gantos. Students are working on note-taking, and identifying important information. We are also paying close attention to the writing style of Jack Gantos, and his use of details to help us visualize and bring the book alive.

Students have reflected on their writing from their writer's notebooks, and identified "themes" within their writing. They are using these themes as a springboard for writing a narrative.

Students have an independent book project they are working on, which is



Left: Michael examines a rock from our nature trail. Center and right: Students work together with an interactive website about the rock cycle.

due December 18th. Students have chosen a book, and created a plan for completing the book and a project by the 18th. They have written the plan in their planner. Part of the project is writing a summary each night in their reader's notebooks. The other part is a project of their choice.

Science

We have started a science unit on the rock cycle and the layers of the earth. Students began with a walk on the nature trail, looking for characteristics of rocks they saw and collecting a few smaller rocks to bring back to the classroom for a "rock museum." As we develop knowledge around the different kinds of rocks, and their characteristics, students will identify the rocks they gathered on their rock hunt. Students are currently working with an interactive website about the rock cycle, and they will be reading a book from the Delta Science Readers series, Rocks and Minerals.

The King and I

Students have been assigned roles for the play, The King and I. Students have a copy of the play at school and at home. Please remind them to practice their lines! We expect the play will be performed in mid-January.