

Stokes' Class Clarion
Web-page Issue #8
Weeks of December 3 to 14, 2007

Welcome: Mr. Stokes and Ms. Fooshee welcome our newest third grade student, Jacob. We're glad you are here.

Language! Listings

We are studying the following reading and spelling skills in our Language! Program:

- 1.) Reading and spelling with sh as in "ship" and ch as in "chair." We know that sh & ch are consonant digraphs; two letters that make one sound.
- 2.) Reading with combination ar as in "star" as well as combination ur as in "dollar." We are also choosing the best spelling of the (oi) sound by picking diphthong oy as in "boy" or diphthong oi as in "coil."

Math Musings

We are learning/reviewing these topics in math:

1. Solving Multi-step Story Problems
2. Probability
3. Telling Time
4. Rounding to the Nearest Ten
5. Triple Digit Subtraction
6. Fractions

We just finished a creative math read-aloud entitled A Remainder of One by Elinor J. Pinczes.

Scientifically Speaking

In Science, we are currently studying soils and landforms. We are learning how landforms and soils connect to our previous study of rocks and minerals. Our most recent projects have been to:

- a. Compare vegetable growth in the three types of soils
- b. Sculpt a cone, shield, or composite volcano out of clay
- c. Simulate a volcanic eruption

Powerful Writing

We are using an outlining strategy called Power Writing. Power Writing enables us to categorize words as either general terms or specific terms. We call general terms “Power 1’s;” they will later become topic our sentences. Here are some of our Power 1 words: months, days, and foods.

We call specific terms “Power 2’s;” these will later become our supporting sentences. Here are some of our Power 2 words: December, Tuesday, and hot dogs.

Our new read-aloud is an award winning novel entitled Cricket in Times Square by George Selden. We will be responding to our daily read-alouds by doing some Power Writing inspired from the plot of the novel.