

Stokes' Class Clarion
Web-page Issue #9
Weeks of January 8 to 18, 2008

Language! Listings

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

- 1.) Reading and spelling words with double consonant letters in the medial position such as *muffin*, *dobbin*, and *pellet*. We are learning that for spelling, these words with double consonants follow the "Rabbit Rule."
- 2.) Reading English words that come from Latin such as words with consonant team ct as in *compact* and words with consonant team pt as in *prompt*. We are spelling the medial (k) sound with ck as in the words *locker* or *bucket*.

Math Musings

We are learning/reviewing these topics in math:

1. Solving Multi-step Story Problems
2. Probability
3. Reading Charts and Graphs
4. Rounding to the Nearest Hundred
5. Four Digit Subtraction
6. Fractions

We are currently reading a math read-aloud entitled Math for Smarty Pants by Marilyn Burns.

Socially Speaking

In Social Studies, we are continuing our in-depth study of communities in Travis County. We are focusing upon the rural communities in Travis County of the 19th and how they compare or contrast with the more urban communities in Travis County today. Some of our topics include:

- a. The rural school building as a multi-use facility
- b. The farming homesteads within the school community
- c. The changing roles of school-age children in Travis County from past to present

Powerful Writing

We are using a paragraphing strategy called Power Writing. Power Writing enables us to write a topic sentence followed by two supporting sentences. Here is a recent class story that we wrote in response to chapter 14 of our read-aloud, Cricket in Times Square, using Power Writing:

There are two reasons that Chester Cricket should go back to Connecticut. For one, Chester's family lives in Connecticut. For another, Chester is not happy in New York City.

Grammar Notes

We are learning to differentiate between sentences and fragments. We are learning that a fragment is usually missing the main noun (subject) or the action word(s) (predicate).