

Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup>

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year and welcome back! I hope everyone enjoyed the long break. From talking with the kids and reading their writing, it sounds like everyone had great holiday celebrations and many enjoyable times were spent with family and friends.

On Monday we welcomed two new students to our classroom. William and Caroline Dring recently moved here from Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Welcome Dring family!

This week we have been busy, busy, busy. I have a feeling your kids' brains are going to be very tired from all we have done this week.

#### MATH

The kids were tested this week in Math for the district local assessment. This test involved a lot of computation and some problem solving. It was taken over a period of 2 days. I was so proud of how hard they worked on the test. We also continued to work on telling time in between the test.

#### READING

In Reading we read a selection about the Saguaro cactus. We answered questions, and did an extended response for the selection. For answering the questions after reading a selection, I am stressing that it is important to look back in their story if they are unsure of the answer. For the extended response, some of the kids are starting to do a nice job of answering in this type of format. I graded this extended response and have included the rubric with their paper. They need to have 2 examples from the text to support the question and then also their own ideas (inferences) and then a summary (what do they now realize).

## WRITING

In writing we started an expository on robots. The kids are doing this paper on their own. They planned their writing and began writing the paper. We will finish this up next week.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

We had a very busy week in Social Studies. On Monday we learned about how the French settled in what is now Illinois and how they set up their villages. The kids then worked in groups to plan their own villages. We found that for the most part they got along peacefully with the Illini Indians. On Wed. they presented their villages to the class. On Thursday the British (Mrs. Clubb's room) invaded our classroom. Our kids(the French and Native Americans) were shocked and upset that some of their desks were taken over by the British. We then read about the French and Indian War and saw that the English went to war with the French and Indians for 9 years and took over their land also. On Friday we took a short quiz over this material. Next week will begin a unit on how Illinois finally becomes a state.

Well that about covers what we have done this week. I told you it has been a busy one. One other thing I would like to mention. Please label your child's snow pants, boots, coats, etc. It really helps when they get misplaced. It would also be helpful if you could send all their winter gear in a reusable bag. We are packed in the lockers and things are getting lost. I hope all of you have a great weekend.

Sincerely, Cindy Weber

