**3D News**

**January 2015**

**Happy New Year!!**

**Reading Workshop**

Currently we are studying Characters in our chapter books. As a class, we are reading My Name is Maria Isabel by Alma Flor Ada. In this unit students will: learn about characters through character’s language, words, actions, motivation, and thoughts. They will also monitor their comprehension and apply appropriate “fix-up” strategies. *Please remember a weekly Reading Log is sent home for students to log their 30 minutes of reading for homework every night. Logs are due on Friday with a parent’s signature.*

**Writing Workshop**

We just finished our Informational Text Unit. Students did a wonderful job creating chapter books based on a topic they were masters of. These books will be arriving home shortly for you to read!

We will be moving forward by writing persuasive papers. Students will practice the art of persuasion by gathering bold opinions, collecting information for support, organizing and categorizing information to create their very own persuasive essay.

**Math Workshop**

We are beginning Whole Number Concepts, Estimation and Computation using Multiplication and Division with Whole Numbers. In this unit, students will extend their understanding of multiplication through real world applications. A math letter has been sent home explaining specific strategies that will be taught during this unit.

**Math Fluency**

 Students are still expected to practice their Math Fluency thirty minutes per week. A fresh log for January was sent home on Monday, January 4th. Aside from internet resources, hardcopy resources have been sent home for students to use as an alternative to websites. Students take a math fluency test weekly and as a class we have improved our class average by 7 points!! Come February, we will start practicing our multiplication and division fluency at home. A letter, along with additional resources, will be sent home in February.

**Science & Social Studies**

Students are currently working on a Native American Research Project with Mrs. Stafstrom in the LMC. Student groups are studying specific Native American Tribe’s family life, shelter, clothing, and food. The tribes being studied are the Navajo, Iroquois, Seminole, Sioux, and Inuit. Students will be creating posters and sharing them as a newscast to the class.

**Highlighted Authors and Read Alouds**

The Witches by Roald Dahl

The Stinky Cheeseman by Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith

From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Bail E. FrankWeiler

by e. l. konigsburg

**Important Dates**

RSVP to Math Night – January 9th

Math Night – January 15th - 6:15-7:45

No School – MLK Day – January 19th