

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! We hope you enjoyed the vacation time with your wonderful children.

We want to send a huge ***Congratulations*** to Mrs. Cabezas who got engaged over the break!!

Reading Workshop:

We are continuing our unit called *Appreciating Fiction through the Characters' Eyes*. Below are questions that are used in the classroom to extend thinking. Please use them at home while reading with your child.

Question Stems	
<p>Thinking Within the Text</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ What was the problem in the story? What did _____ do to solve the problem? ✓ What happened in the story? How did the story end? ✓ Explain what you learned in this book. What did you learn about _____? ✓ What were some important facts about _____ in this book? ✓ What information did you learn from the (chart, map, label, graph, photo, drawing, glossary)? What kind of information does it give you? 	
<p>Thinking Beyond the Text</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Tell me some ways _____ and _____ are alike/different. ✓ Tell me how _____ felt when _____. Why? ✓ Why is _____ important? ✓ How does _____ change? What does _____ learn? ✓ How do you think _____ felt when (or about) _____? ✓ Why do you think _____? Can you give an example from the book? ✓ Make a prediction about _____. How do you know something is going to happen here? ✓ What does the writer say that makes you think that? ✓ What is a question you still have about _____? ✓ What lesson did _____ learn? ✓ What was the value of _____ to _____? 	
<p>Thinking About the Text</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Is this a good title for this story? Why (not)? ✓ What makes the title, _____ a good one for this book? ✓ What did _____ learn? How do you know this? ✓ Why do you think the writer said _____? ✓ What did the writer mean by _____? ✓ Show the sections of the book and tell the kind of information in each section. ✓ How does the heading help you read the book? ✓ How did the writer help you understand _____? ✓ How did the writer make this book interesting? ✓ Look at the way the writer began the book. What did the writer do to get you interested in the topic? ✓ What side do you think the writer is on? Why? ✓ What is the significance of _____? ✓ Why do you think the writer wrote this book in 1st (or 3rd) person? ✓ What genre did the writer use? What makes you think that? ✓ Look at the way the writer ended the book. Do you think this is a good way to end? Why or why not? ✓ Give an example of a description the writer used to show what _____ was like. ✓ What was the most important part of the story and why? ✓ Find the part in the story where _____. ✓ What did the writer mean when s/he said _____? ✓ What was the writer's message? ✓ The writer used specific words/phrases to describe _____. Can you give examples? ✓ How did the writer let you know that something exciting was going to happen (foreshadowing)? Find examples from the text. ✓ Look back at the text and find some powerful descriptive words. Explain what they mean. 	

Phonics/Penmanship:

This week's words are: **make, not, new, for, my**. Please use the spelling menu to complete at least 3 activities at home. We will be having a Word Wall Test on these words on Friday.

Writing:

We are continuing our writing of nonfiction chapter books. The students have learned that authors add introductions and conclusions to their writing as a thoughtful way to begin and end books.



Writers don't just end their stories, they add a **Conclusion!**
-a thoughtful way to end your teaching book.

CLOSE WITH ADVICE FOR YOUR READER:
Give some advice for the reader. Tell them something that they should learn or do about your writing.

One thing I know for sure is that dogs are a lot of fun! Maybe you will get a dog now that you know everything you need to know to care for one!

CLOSE WITH A FACT:
Tell your reader an interesting fact you learned or know about your topic. You might surprise your reader.

Plans are being
made
for reader of the
and have fun reading.

Math:

We are continuing our learning of 2D shapes. We learned that shapes can defining attributes are

Defining Attributes	Non-defining Attributes
*sides	*color
*angles	*texture
*vertices (points)	*size
*parallel lines	*orientation
*right angles (square corners)	
*curves	

Respectfully yours,

Abigail Barzottini
Allison Cabezas
Debbie Jacobs