

December Newsletter

5th Grade

Language Arts:

We are almost done with *Esperanza Rising*. We have made connections to *Walk Two Moons*. Esperanza is also in denial, not wanting to admit that she is no longer rich. She also comes to terms with her reality. This book also touches on our future theme of the history of the 1900's, giving us an opportunity to introduce concepts such as the Dust Bowl and the Great Depression. We have also studied different Author's Crafts. I have also introduced a Context Clues reading response in which they need to use the context of the sentence to figure out the meaning of a word, and then look up the definition in the dictionary to see if they were correct. Finally, they need to write an original sentence using the word.

In writing, we are going to write a story next trimester. We will be using the Five Facts of Fiction to guide us through the process of developing characters and setting.

Mathematics:

We have started Unit 5, which focuses mainly on fractions. We have been slowed down the pace a little since we are doing hand-on activities so that the students can see the difference between the numerator and the denominator. We will be finishing this unit in January.

Theme:

We have finished North America and will be studying The Reproductive System. We will be studying the different parts of both male and female reproductive system, how babies are made, and AIDS. If you have any concerns about this theme, you may write to me or arrange a meeting to discuss it.

Thanks,
Norma Oliveira