

6th Grade News

November 2009

Holiday: No School – Monday, November 9

November Birthdays – Zoe Marie Lopez November 17, Jose Antonio Cortorreal November 25

- Math** The students recently finished up a challenging Unit 2 in Sixth Grade Everyday Math, in which students reviewed how to add, subtract, multiply and divide with decimals, as well as work with standard, number-and-word, exponential and scientific notations. We are now working on Unit 3, which focuses algebraic expressions, variables, formulas and graphing.
- Reading** We are currently working on Guided Reading, which consists of the teacher working with small groups of students who are reading the same book. The class is divided into four groups and the books we are working with include: Surviving the Applewhites (Stephanie S. Tolan), The Tale of Despereaux (Katie DiCamillo), The House of the Scorpion (Nancy Farmer) and Kira-Kira (Cynthia Kadohata). I meet with two to three groups each day, and for the most part have been impressed with the students maturity focus and self-motivation in completing their daily reading assignments.
- Writing** The students continue to work on their short stories during writing workshop. Many are revising and editing and others are drafting. We are hoping to produce a book of our class's short stories early in the second trimester.
- Theme** We finished our first unit of study, the Wetlands, in early October and are now exploring the Nervous System. As our culminating Wetlands' project, students constructed multi-media murals representing different wetland scenes in the hallway leading to our class. I encourage all parents to come and see your child's beautiful work. We are now focusing on the anatomy of the nervous system (specifically the brain, spinal cord and nerve cells or neurons). We will be having a quiz on this material next week (November 11) and the next day will be dissecting cows' brains in small groups as a practical application of the skills and information acquired in this unit. We will then move on to studying diseases of the nervous system, sleep, memory and learning. Our Nervous System test is scheduled for November 27 (the end of the first trimester).

I hope all is well with you as we enter our third month of school. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please write me in the communication notebooks or feel free to email me.

southworth.lindsay@gmail.com

-Lindsay