

December 13, 2019

Dear Parents,

Happy Friday the 13th! It is amazing to think that there is only one more week of school, before winter break. I am in the midst of conferences as I type this, and as I said in Tuesday's e-mail, I enjoy my conferences with you. It is great to connect around your child. 😊

❖ What We Have Been Working On

In **social studies**, we have finished working with the Native American Cultural Regions and are now focusing our attention on the causes and effects of the European exploration of the early to mid-1500s. Understanding the motives for exploration, allows for greater insight into understanding the effects. There will be an "open notes" assessment, on this, next week.

In **reading**, students have recently performed "fractured fairytale" plays for our 1st grade "buddies." Students worked to improve their reading fluency and worked collaboratively to put on some exciting performances. This week, they have been reading Sid Fleishman's, Newbery Award winning book, *The Whipping Boy*.

In **language arts**, the class learned about and is currently writing two forms of Japanese poetry: Haiku and Tanka.

In **math**, my math class is working with multiplying (and soon dividing) fractions, in Chapter 3.

❖ Holiday Gifts

Just in case that you forgot my "Back to School Night" request, please do not feel a need to get me any holiday gifts. More than anything else, I like when the students make me a card, or something else (like a picture, cookies, or anything else that they enjoy creating), with their hands. If you feel compelled to do more than that, a donation to a non-profit organization, meaningful to your family, in my name, would certainly be welcome.

That being said, the gift that I appreciate most, is the trust that you put in me, every day, to guide your child to becoming stronger and more capable. It is a gift not accepted lightly.

As always, please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Know that I will contact you if any concerns arise on my end. I am wishing you and your family, a joyous winter break, filled with warmth and laughter.

With great sincerity,
Mr. VanZant