

Mr. T's Rockin' Crocs



"Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family."

Kofi Annan

In Friday Folders this week:

Newsletter
Homework
Math Quiz
Science Vocab Quiz



Announcements

Book Fair

Thank you to our wonderful PTA for the Groovy Book Fair. It was great to see all of the parents at the family night and to see the smiles on our students' faces when they got a new book!

Rubik's Club

Mrs. Hochbrueckner is looking forward to starting Rubik's Cube Club with the fifth graders during 4th quarter. However, she needs a few parent volunteers to come help her manage groups. The club will meet on Tuesdays from 3:15- 4:15. You do not need to be able to solve the Rubik's cube in order to help with the club. If you are interested in helping, please email her at mhochbrueckner@wcpss.net

Raleigh Parks and Recreation After School Care 2016-2017

The City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Department will be offering the After School X-Press program at Sycamore Creek Elementary School for the 2016-2017 school year. Registration for the After School program begins on Monday, March 14th, 2016 at 7:00am. Registration brochures are now available in the Sycamore Creek Elementary School main office.

Visit parks.raleighnc.gov and search "Sycamore Creek" for more information concerning the program, registration and a link to the registration brochure. Call the Youth Programs office at 919-996-6165 with any questions.

Poe Center Field Trip

Please be sure to send back your field trip form for our field trip forms to the Poe Center. Students will be learning about the various body systems we will be learning about during the 3rd and 4th quarter. Track 4 will be going to the Poe Center on March 24th. There is not a cost for this field trip.

Human Growth and Development

Parents it is that wonderful time of 5th grade . . . Human Growth and Development! The Parent information session discussing our curriculum will take place on February 18 at 5:00. At this session you will receive an overview of the curriculum your students will be learning. The teacher curriculum is currently in the office if you wish to stop by and view the information. The Human Growth and Development unit will be taught at Sycamore Creek from 3/18 - 3/23.

PBIS Integrity

Have you ever been honest when you could have gotten away with not telling the truth? Have you ever CHOMPed even though there were no adults around to see it? Well then you have shown great *Integrity!* Integrity means you always do the right thing no matter what, and you're always honest. Talk about some of the ways you show integrity.

Important Dates

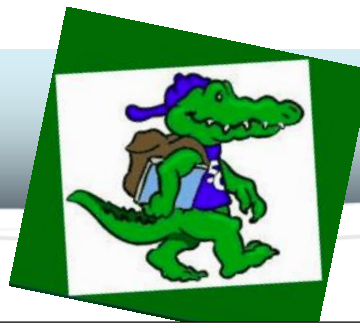
2/12 – Early Release;
2/12 - Science Projects Due
2/13 – Science Expo
2/18 – HG&D Parent Meeting 5 pm
2/19 - Club Picture Day
2/26 – Interims
4/22 – Super Crocs Day

Book Fair

Each individual class has a book fair preview date and purchase date. Our individual dates and times are:

Class Purchase – 2-15-2016 from 12:20 – 12:40

Curriculum Update



Math - On Monday of this week students took a short quiz on the content relating to numerical patterns and graphing that we have been covering in math. I have been very pleased with our students continued commitment to accuracy when completing data tables and graphs. After our short quiz we then worked in small groups to look for patterns and missing data in a PTA spring carnival planning sheet. Students worked very well within their groups discussing and critiquing the work of one another. After completing this project, students were then introduced to our study of fractions. On Wednesday, students learned that a fraction is really the division of the numerator by the denominator. On Thursday and Friday students continued to look at how sharing items on a picnic could be displayed as fractions and division sentences. For example if three bags of chips were taken on a picnic and there were four people at the picnic each person would be able to eat $\frac{3}{4}$ of the chips (3 bags divided by 4 people = $\frac{3}{4}$). Next week we will be adding and subtracting fractions using models. Check out this [video](#) to see some of the methods we will be using in class.

Check out this parent [document](#) to gain more information about our upcoming fraction lessons.

Reading - In Reading this week we continued studying theme through the lens of the fantasy genre. However, this week we focused on how characters change from the beginning of the story to the end of the story. We did this to help us visualize the lessons the characters learned. Before diving too deep into theme, we determined that there were really [two ways to think about theme](#). The first way we can think about a theme is "topical" (i.e. friendship, courage, fairness, etc.). The next way to think about a theme is as a "bumper sticker" (i.e. early bird gets the worm, look before you leap, beauty is in the eye of the beholder, etc.) Next, we discussed various proverbs and their meanings. To do this students gallery walked around the classroom with sticky notes and wrote their idea of what the proverb meant on their sticky note and placed it next to the proverb. Then students were grouped together and assigned a specific proverb. Students then began to discuss their proverb, then came the most challenging part, acting out their proverb. After students acted out the proverb, we discussed the meaning of each one more in depth. By examining proverbs students are able to understand common themes that come up frequently not only in stories but also in life. Check [here](#) for some common proverbs to discuss with your student. Then we continued the week by looking at the story "A Bad Case of Stripes". Students completed a [graphic organizer](#) that asked how the characters changed from the beginning of the story to end, what lesson the main character(s) learned, what lesson can we apply to our own lives? Next, students determined the "topical" theme and the "bumper sticker" theme.

Writing - In Writing, just as in reading, we continued writing fantasy stories. Students took their plot sentences and expanded those thoughts into what will be their fantasy narrative writing piece. Students began to brainstorm their problem, solution, and characters. With scaffolding students began to craft their introductions. Students were encouraged to add detail and elaboration to make their writing come alive. Next, we began to introduce our evil villain (antagonist) and main problem of the story. As we continue our writing into next week, students will begin to draft the attempts our characters make at solving their problem/defeating the antagonist.

Science - In Science this week we continued our new unit, Ecosystems. Students were very excited to see our animals in the terrariums displays upon their arrival on Monday. We began the week by placing aquatic producers (elodea, duckweed, and algae) in our individual aquariums. We discussed the differences between these plants and the producers in our terrariums. We then placed several mosquito fish and snails in the aquariums. We then discussed and created webs displaying how our animals and producers are interdependent (both organisms rely on one another) on one another and how the organisms and plants are dependent on abiotic factors (sunlight, water, rocks, oxygen, etc). Discuss with your students the importance of interdependent and dependent relationships. On Thursday, Students learned about food chains. Students can play various food chain games [here](#) and our ecosystems vocabulary is available in its entirety [here](#). Students can learn about and create food webs of animals in the United States [here](#). Students can also design their own aquarium and terrarium at the aforementioned link.

CHOMPliment - Students did an excellent job of earning CHOMPliment cards in the cafeteria and during specials this week and we even earned a CHOMPliment in the hall this week. Students voted for their CHOMPliment reward on Friday. Look for the results and date of our CHOMPliment reward coming soon.



CHOMPliment Total



I Can...

In order to bring purpose to what your child is learning, we post I CAN statements on our board daily. It is important that your child is continually utilizing these to evaluate their understanding. You can check in with our student by discussing the following statements.

Math:

Use numerical rules and patterns to form ordered pairs and can graph the ordered pairs on a graph.

Understand that fractions are really the division of the numerator by the denominator.

Reading:

I can explain how a series of chapters, scenes of stanzas fit together to create a larger literary text.

Writing:

Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

Science:

Understand the interdependence of plants and animals and their ecosystems.

Explain how some materials change as a result of heating and cooling.



Croc with Character!

Integrity



Noah



Mr. T's Pick of the Week

January 29 - Miah

February 5 - Madi

February 12 - Riley