

Mr. T's Rockin' Crocs



"The purpose of education is replace an empty mind with an open one."

Malcom Forbes

In Friday Folders this week:

Newsletter
Homework
Reading Assignment
Orchestra Flier
Dr. Suess week flier
Spring Carnival Vendor Form



Announcements

Spring Pictures

Parents our spring pictures will take place on March 16th. Our time for pictures is at 1:10.

Family Night

Join us on February 26 at Backyard Burgers and Goodberry's for family night.

Service Project

Rockin' Croc Parents, for our final service project of the year we will be making dog treats for a local dog shelter. Be on the lookout for information and a sign up genius regarding our upcoming final service project in the coming weeks. FYI - *Our service project will take place on the morning of March 23.*

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

Leesville Orchestra

The Leesville Orchestra would like to invite you to an evening of pop music at their upcoming performance. Please join us on Tuesday, March 1st at 7:00pm in the Leesville Road High School Auditorium for the Pops Concert! This will be an excellent opportunity for students and families to gain an overview of the orchestra program at Leesville Road Middle and High School. Tickets are \$5.00 at the door and rising 6th graders will be admitted for free! Come meet us and enjoy some great music!

Human Growth and Development

Parents it is that wonderful time of 5th grade . . . Human Growth and Development! 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. Students will visit the Poe Health Center for a review on March 24.

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

2/26 – Interims; Family Night
3/1 – Pieces of Gold
3/3 – Croc 5 Chorus
3/4 – Early Release – Book Character Day
3/7 – Teacher Appreciation Week
3/10 – Croc 5 Chorus
3/16 – Spring Pictures – 1:10
3/18 – 3/23 – Human Growth Unit
3/24 – Poe Health Center Field Trip
4/22 – Super Crocs Day

Wish List

Markers
Lined Paper
Tissues



Curriculum Update

Math - This week in math we have continued to discuss fractions. We have spent a great deal of time adding and subtracting fractions with uncommon denominators. We also have been studying word problems that involve both addition and subtraction of fractions and mixed numbers. We have also begun to work on adding and subtracting mixed numbers. Using models to illustrate our understanding has been somewhat tricky at times. I encourage our students to continue to persevere when attempting to solve problems using new methods. On Thursday, we began working on adding and subtracting mixed numbers that involve regrouping and ungrouping of whole numbers. This [video](#) details how we have used the area model to add mixed numbers. This [video](#) illustrates how we have been utilizing an area model to subtract mixed numbers. Check out this parent [document](#) to gain more information about our upcoming fraction lessons. Next week we will have a short quiz on adding and subtracting fractions including mixed numbers.

Reading - In Reading this week we continued studying theme through the lens of the fantasy genre. We started this week by reviewing how to compare two stories that have the same theme and we spent some time discussing the two stories similarities and differences. Students should continue to utilize this [comparison graphic organizer](#) when comparing and contrasting two stories that have a similar theme. On Tuesday we discussed [this anchor chart](#) and learned how conjunctions can enhance our writing by creating compound sentences making our writing more complex. We also answered several questions about theme after reading a folktale entitled "The Bell of Atri." On Thursday and Friday, we continued to compare and contrast different stories from the same genre by reading and watching Discovery Education clips about tall tales. While reviewing tall tales we also discussed hyperbole and exaggeration and how they are utilized within the tall tale genre. Students should continue to reference this graphic organizer, [two ways to think about theme when reading](#). Student can continue to utilize this [graphic organizer](#) to ask how the characters change from the beginning of the story to end, what lesson the main character(s) learned, what lesson can we apply to our own lives? By doing so students will learn more about their characters and they should be able to identify the theme the author is attempting to convey.

Writing - In Writing, just as in reading, we continued writing fantasy stories. This week we continued to discuss adding dialogue to our stories and how to add the "just right" amount. We also completed a mini lesson on constructing a fantasy conclusion. We reviewed how to wrap up our story and bring our story to a conclusion. On Thursday and Friday, we completed mini lessons on editing our writing and making sure the verb tenses match within our story. Review the rubric for our writing piece [here](#).

Science - In Science this week we continued our new unit, Ecosystems. We have been completing our pollution experiments this week. We have used a vinegar water mixture as a simulated acid rain solution. We have polluted our "variable" ecocolumn each day. Students read various articles discussing different pollutants such as acid rain, fertilizer run-off, and salt from treated roads. We then discussed the pH scale and acidity and bases. Students used pH strips, which have a range of 3-5.5, to test the soil and water of their ecocolumns. We noticed that the pH level of our control ecocolumns was 5.5, the closest our strips could test to neutral. In our pollutant ecocolumn however, the acidity of our soil measured a level of 4.0 after two days of polluting and the water measured a level of 5.25. As a class, we are predicting that the level of the aquarium water pH will become more acidic because of the run-off from the terrarium soil. On Thursday and Friday, students began to investigate and report on different biomes using the Discovery Education board builder. Students will share their findings about their specific biomes next week. 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 selected a movie for their CHOMPliment reward. There was a tie and we needed to revote on Monday, therefore our CHOMPliment reward will take place during our early release on March 4. I will let the student vote for a movie on Monday or Tuesday of next week. This week our students did very well earning their CHOMPliments in the cafeteria and in specials. I was also very pleased with the way our students behaved, listened attentively, and followed directions on Wednesday with the threat of severe weather.



CHOMPliment Total



188

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:

I can add and subtract fractions with unlike denominators and mixed numbers.

I can understand that fractions are really the division of a numerator by the denominator.

I can solve word problems that involve fractions.

Reading:

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

I can compare and contrast stories in the same genre for approach to theme and topic.

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

February 19 - Avery

February 26 - ??????