

Leo's Family Newsletter

Wednesday, November 6th 2019



Upcoming Events

Monday, November 11th
NO SCHOOL-Veteran's Day

Monday-Tuesday November 25th & 26th
NO-SCHOOL-Family Conferences
Please arrive 5 minutes early for your conference and bring your student to the conference if at all possible

Thursday-Sunday November 27th - December 1st
NO SCHOOL: Fall Break

Friday, December 13th at 5:30pm
Riparian Festival
*Featuring all 3rd-8th grade classrooms

Connect to Your Kid

What's something you're proud of doing, changing, or participating in this fall?

Who is in your book club and what book are you all reading?

Announcements

- Remember to turn in the paper form or complete [this online form](#) to sign up for a conference slot. After school space is extremely limited, so I will do my very best to squeeze people into places. That being said, our designated conference days are November 25th and 26th.
- Fall quarter grading uses progress reports rather than "report cards." Much of the information is the same, but it is not as thorough and will not show up from quarter one along with the rest of the report card marks. I get that this is weird and can be confusing, so I try to add as much handy information to the progress reports as possible. I will go over progress reports at conferences, then send home progress reports for any family unable to attend conferences.
- Some students asked to work on their fictional narratives at home. This is great! They just go to google---> click on the box menu at the top right (they know what this means!)----> google classroom-----> then select the assignment and keep typing

Field Study News

It's the time of year when our learning starts to transition inwards to our classroom due to weather. I am working on a potential field study between now and winter break, otherwise stay tuned for late winter/spring!

What We're Learning

4ths Math 4ths: Wowie our fourths are plowing through our second unit! The first goal of this unit is to multiply numbers (4×5 or 3×12 type) using different strategies, including drawing a picture, skip counting, drawing arrays, repeated addition, and using the distributive property. Our next step will be to learn about factors and how to find all the [factors of a product](#).

5ths Math: Our fifths just wrapped up being able to divide a 3 digit number by a 1 or 2 digit number (for example, $475 \div 25 = ?$), and having multiple ways to find the answer. [Here is an example of using the area model/rectangle model](#) to divide, which was new to me and one of the kids' favorite ways. I will also pass out anchor charts at conferences for families to see different ways of multiplying and dividing. The idea is to have many tools in our toolbox so that we can decide which method to use when and also have favorites that we use as go tos. Next steps for 5ths are to be able to multiply numbers by powers of 10, such as 10^3 , then we'll take our post-assessment for the unit.

Writing: Students are relieved and excited to be at the publishing stage of our fictional narratives. We've been working really hard on revising our drafts. I have been impressed at student focus during typing time as we publish our pieces using chromebooks.

Reading: Students each have a book club, that is student led while also having goals from reading notices I've made. Each group sets a page reading goal. They also have an assignment from me that is due our next book clubs day (Monday, November 18th). We struggled a bit at first with independence and long term task management, but we are learning skills so that students are able to track their progress and remind each other when assignments are due.

Science/Social Studies: Students wrapped up our trees science stations, which we will revisit later in the year. For now, our next step is launching our PNW Columbia River Dams Storyline. Here are the videos ([#1](#) and [#2](#)) from our first episode. One note that came up is engagement and talking about how us as SES teachers put together Storylines as an engaging and student centered way of learning the 4th/5th grade standards for science and social studies. Students who are not engaged can opt out to complete a reading and writing packet instead of participating in our Storyline. I'm looking forward to seeing how students lead this Storyline forward, as it is based in almost real time events happening in the Portland and Oregon areas.

Social/class: After weeks of practicing active listening, our students have almost earned enough stars on the star chart to cash in for a movie. They will vote on which film to watch. Moving forward, our next social and class goals will be to:

1. Manage our own materials and supplies
2. Be able to recognize when we are in yellow, blue, or red zone and use mindfulness strategies to help meet our needs



Publishing Narratives & Science Stations

