

4TH GRADE FLASH

IN THE CLASSROOM...

Social Studies

We had a great field trip to downtown Raleigh last week, which ties in nicely with our study of N.C. government. Students have been comparing and contrasting the 3 branches of government and the general gov. framework at state, local and national levels. The field trip helped to reinforce the concepts we've been discussing in a very practical way. In fact, the House was in session, preparing to talk about the proposed state budget cutbacks when we visited. We will also use flow charts to practice tracing the steps for a bill to become a law in the State Legislature. Students will begin looking at 18th century colonial N.C. life and immigration patterns this month.

Science

Students continue to learn about animal adaptations and recently participated in labs where they constructed terrariums. They examined lizards and crickets in the terrariums, comparing and contrasting the physical features of the various lizards and crickets. Another fun lab this month, which some classes have already completed, requires students to dissect owl pellets, solidifying the concept of predator and prey relationships as we examine what the owl has digested.



Math

We are beginning a unit solving problems using models, diagrams, and reasoning about fractions and relationships among fractions. Using differentiated, flexible grouping and the integration of technology helps to insure that all learning modalities are being met. Following our unit on fractions, students will learn about the relationship between fractions and decimals.



Reading & Writing

In reading, we continue building on the balanced literacy model, as students examine and process fiction and nonfiction materials across the curriculum. Lessons consist of identifying the author's craft in fiction, including author's purpose.

In writing, students are working to revise and edit narratives focusing on organization and mechanics. They will also have opportunities to practice content specific writing, which includes writing in math, science, and social studies.

PTA Reminder:

Help support Estes Hills and your child's classroom by volunteering at the PTA Thrift Shop.

Sorting takes place every Tues/Thurs. from 10-12 and they could use your help!

Upcoming Dates:

- **February 13:**
Silent Auction and Family Fun Night
- **February 19:**
Delayed Opening
- **March 3-4 & 10-11:** Chapel Hill Museum field trip

Check Out These Fun Websites at Home!

Students and parents are sure to enjoy these great sites!

- Scholastic Flashlight Readers: http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/flashlightreaders/T_landingPage.asp
- Kids Place Brain Teasers: www.eduplace.com/math/brain/
- Book Adventure: www.bookadventure.com/
- Figure This Math Challenges: www.figurethis.org/index.html

French Fun!

French students in the fourth grade have been studying Impressionism, and the arts of France as they prepare for Declamation, a French poetry contest by reading and interpreting the Surrealist poem, La Fourmi by Robert Desnos. Declamation takes place Saturday Feb. 28, 2009, at 9 a.m. Students are about to begin a Unit on weather and clothing.

