



Home-School Connection #21

3/12/15

Write at least 4 thought provoking questions

55 VOTED! Oceans it is!

Our class was able to use the survey that Rowan designed and you voted to protect oceans. I wish I had recorded the amazing morning meeting where you each said what you wanted people to know or do. Even if you voted for something else, please discuss what you and other people said about they would focus on. What do you think our class might do to get people to protect the oceans and defend the animals in it?



WANGARI MAATHAI: You read an article about a woman named Wangari Maathai. The article happened to be a former 5th grade MCAS question, but I also thought it was beautifully written and inspiring. You had to think about a lesson Wangari's actions could teach someone. What did you say? I showed you samples of two different possible topic sentences I wrote and how I used the text differently to answer each of them. Talk about the article and what you learned about Wangari and about writing from going over it. You can see it here: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/2014/release/Gr5-ELA.pdf> You can also learn more about her here: <http://www.greenbeltmovement.org/wangari-maathai> Talk about how her actions connect to the work we will do to protect the ocean.

DECIMALS and Pi: 3.14159265359... π :

We have been delving into decimals. You are learning to order them, round them, add, subtract and multiply them. How is this going? You are also learning about a famous decimal (*irrational*) number called Pi. It is also known as this symbol- π . We discussed circumference and diameter. If you divide the circumference by the diameter C/D you always get π . The little TED ED movie we saw explains Pi and some of the ways Pi has been useful. We also watched a guy making Pi with pies, You can see the PI videos at <http://5starkclasswebsite.weebly.com/2014-15-marvelous-math-links.html>.

Some of you are going to try and memorize 25 or more of the first Pi numbers. if you do this, please pay attention to what helps you learn them. Memorization is not really math, but it does involve brain power. On Monday, we will have a chance to eat some pie as people recite some Pi. We then connected some of what you are learning about Pi to a new game called, Decimal Krypto. Describe the game. What does the game help you learn? How can you make it more interesting?



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CURRENCY Some of you are helping to design our very own 55 currency that will be worth .001 (1/1000) of a dollar. Our American system's smallest currency is .01 of a dollar. Once we have all the 6.25 x 2.75 designs, we will print them out and use them to trade, buy and sell items we think are worth thousandths of a dollar.. If you are designing this currency what have you put on the design and why? If your parents know about other currencies, please discuss them, their designs and the values of them. .

LIGHT, RAINBOW, & PRISMS: On a sunny afternoon, as light poured into our classroom, we listened to a podcast about Sir Isaac Newton as he tried to figure out if color is something unique to each person, or if it is inside the white beams of light shining from the sun. One way he figured it out is by using a prism. So we tried this too. You started to experiment and create rainbows around our room. You then did some reading and found out light is an electromagnetic wave. and has different wavelengths.. These different wavelengths determine color. Red has the longest and Indigo has the shortest waves The visible spectrum is made up of ROYGBIV, but there are colors we can't see. When light passes through something like a prism or water drop it bends and the different waves bend so you see their separate colors. Talk about what you and your parents know and the questions you both have about light and color. On our website are great little movies to learn more.. Stay tuned as we learn more about color and light and why you see what you do.



OTHER: topic, , statement, question(s). You can add more paper if you need.

OTHER:

- Rivertable Progress
- Family Posters & Docs
- Interview, Sola's Essay,
- Meeting- Lunch Seats
- Specials: PE, Art, Music Library, Chinese, COB

Due: MONDAY: We made a time to do this on:_____ Parent Signature & Comments:

Student Rating (1-5) Please say why and which topics lead to the most in-depth discussions.