

Dear upper elementary parents,

After a long winter break, it has been great to see the children return to school, motivated and ready to work!

They have been working hard to complete their individual ancient civilization projects. Some students have expressed interest in doing the 3-d component of their projects at home. While this is not a requirement, I encourage it. This is a great opportunity for your family to be involved with a school project, and it can be a lot of fun. They will be presenting their projects on Tuesday, Feb. 7, way ahead of schedule! I'll send more information about this soon.

We are finishing up our second cycle of process writing. This is an informational cycle, and we have tied it in with the ancient civilization projects.

Our next process writing cycle is going to be a response to literature. Everyone in the class has been loaned a copy of Frindle to read at school or at home. We have read Hatchet, are reading Bud, Not Buddy, and will soon read The Phantom Tollbooth. The kids have also read many other books this year, so I am expecting this writing cycle to be a lot of fun.

Also, in class, we have been enjoying learning about and experimenting with simple machines, matter and energy, atoms, and elements. We have been studying biomes, working on pin maps, geometry, coordinate graphs, and much more!

We are looking forward to our spaghetti dinner next Thursday, January 19th, and hope to raise a lot of money for our trip to Washington, D.C. We are starting a canned food drive for Manna Food Bank and are waiting to hear from them about a good time to deliver the food and volunteer there. We are also starting a penny drive to raise money for reforestation in Cambodia through Heifer International. We had fun baking chocolate chip cookies for Jay Bettencourt's fire station and our bake sale at the spaghetti dinner and have also enjoyed cooking lunch each Friday for the whole elementary school. We have many other exciting things planned for the next month, including reading buddies at Children's House, another visit to the library, and visiting a mummy exhibit at Discovery Place in Charlotte.

I hope everyone enjoys a long weekend in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Thanks,  
Kara