



Mrs. Otte's Weekly Update



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December 15-19

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Edition 16

Things to keep the mind working over break!

Using Google Drive in the Classroom

STUDENTS HAVE BEEN WORKING ON THEIR PERSUASIVE ESSAYS ON AND OFF FOR THE LAST TWO MONTHS. THEY ARE FINALLY FINISHING UP THE REVISING AND EDITING PHASE. MR. VAN DYKE HAS KINDLY BEEN HELPING US DURING OUR COMPUTER TIME TO LEARN HOW TO USE GOOGLE DRIVE. FIRST, STUDENTS HAD TO TYPE THEIR ESSAYS ON GOOGLE DRIVE. NEXT, MR. VAN DYKE HAD THEM SHARE THEIR WRITING PIECES WITH A WRITING PARTNER. HE TAUGHT THEM HOW TO ADD EDITING MARKS TO THEIR PARTNER'S PAPER. THEY REALLY ENJOYED BEING ABLE TO SEE HOW TWO PEOPLE CAN WORK ON ONE DOCUMENT AT A TIME. AFTER MAKING COMMENTS TO THEIR PARTNER'S PAPER, STUDENTS WENT BACK AND EITHER CHOSE TO ACCEPT THEIR PARTNER'S CHANGE, OR KEEP IT AS ORIGINALLY WRITTEN. WE ARE LEARNING THAT AS WRITERS WE GET TO MAKE THE FINAL DECISION, BUT IT IS ALWAYS WORTHWHILE TO GET FEEDBACK FROM OTHERS.

OUR FINAL COPIES WILL BE ADDED TO OUR WRITING PORTFOLIOS IN THE HALLWAY. A GRADED RUBRIC WILL BE COMING HOME AFTER CHRISTMAS BREAK.

WE WILL REVISIT PERSUASIVE ESSAY WRITING IN THE SPRING. STUDENTS WILL ENJOY SEEING HOW MUCH THEIR WRITING HAS GROWN. IT IS ALREADY AMAZING TO SEE HOW MUCH THEIR WRITING HAS IMPROVED IN JUST THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF SCHOOL.

CHRISTMAS BREAK IS A GREAT TIME TO SIT BACK, RELAX, AND ENJOY TIME WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS. I KNOW ALL THE STUDENTS ARE VERY EXCITED FOR THIS TIME! HOWEVER, IT IS ALSO A TIME WHERE STUDENTS CAN REGRESS AFTER WORKING SO HARD. THE SECOND WEEK IN JANUARY WE WILL BE STARTING OUR WINTER MAP TESTING. HERE ARE SOME THINGS TO HAVE YOUR CHILD PRACTICE OVER BREAK TO BE READY.

*HAVE STUDENTS SPEND TIME ON MOBYMAX.COM WORKING ON EITHER LANGUAGE OR MATH SKILLS. WE HAVE A LITTLE COMPETITION GOING FOR OVER BREAK!

*AS A CLASS WE HAVE PLEDGED TO READ AT LEAST ONE BOOK, OF OUR CHOICE, OVER CHRISTMAS BREAK. THIS IS NOT REQUIRED, NOR WILL WE HAVE A PROJECT OVER THE BOOK, BUT STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO SHARE THEIR BOOKS WITH STUDENTS WHEN THEY RETURN TO SCHOOL. STUDENTS CAN ALSO BE WORKING ON THEIR OLYMPIAN LEVELS THAT NEED TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.

*WRITE, WRITE, WRITE. THIS IS A VERY CREATIVE FIFTH GRADE CLASS. ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO WRITE STORIES TO SEND TO THE PUBLISHING CENTER WHEN THEY RETURN IN JANUARY.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, ENJOY BREAK AND HAVE SO MUCH FUN! MRS. OTTE

Dates to Remember

JAN. 5	SCHOOL RESUMES
JAN. 12	MAP TESTING STARTS
JAN. 16	END OF 2 ND QUARTER
JAN. 19	NO SCHOOL
JAN. 25	CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK