



Third Grade Tales



Week of April 21, 2010

Dear Family,

We are a little off our routine here in the classroom, I have been trying to keep things as normal as possible for the kiddos during these past two weeks of testing. Our **last day** of testing will be **tomorrow**☺ The kids have handled our mornings **so well** and I have encouraged them along with sweet treats of mints, lifesavers and even a little bit of gum (Shhhh)! In-between short testing sessions, we have taken popsicle, fresh air and healthy snack breaks. We are so **thankful** for the **generous** and **thoughtful** families that have so graciously donated these treats to our class to keep us **sharp as a tack** through this testing process!!! We should have our testing results back to The Village School by the end of May; I will let you know as soon as I know that they are here.

Our **Me, Myself and I Magazines** are beginning to be **published** and you will see evidence of this on Friday when you come to **K.A.T. Time**. Some of the children have published their **Final Drafts** of “**An Important Person in My Life**” article and are currently working on their illustration to **accompany** their written piece. The bulletin board just outside our classroom will serve as our **billboard** for our **published pieces** as they become available! Look for your child’s pieces to change weekly as they become published authors. As the **past** written articles are removed from the billboard to feature a **new** article, it will be bound into their magazine for final keeping at the end of the year. When this magazine is finished, each child will have **six articles**, each with its own illustration, two advertisements and a table of contents. It will be a **keepsake to treasure forever!**

We have leapt into our **guided reading book Because of Winn Dixie** by Kate DiCamillo. This book does an excellent job of showing the kids what **author’s craft** looks and sounds like. We will focus on skills like **reading like a writer** and using some of these skills in own writing pieces. This real-life literature is also packed with **connections** that the kids will make with the main characters. We shared chapters **one and two together** in class and I think I have them “hooked” already as I had a hard time stopping our discussion on stray dogs and cats and what we would do with them if we encountered one in our own lives! The kids have noticed that I have my own pencil writings in my copy of the guided reading books and have asked, “**Why?**” I explained to them that I mark the passages that are “**teachable moments**” or **reading strategies**, or **vocabulary I don’t understand**, or something that might “**touch me**” as a reader. Of course, after explaining this to them, they wanted to write in their books! I told them that they would have to have **their own copy** of the book to do so; and I would LOVE that, but this is NOT necessary☺ If you do purchase your own copy of the text; please place your name inside so that I know that it is your child’s book!

A couple of reminders are: bring your **completed Science Fair board** to school this Friday, the **NE States Quiz** is next Tuesday, the 27th and **Field Day** is Friday, the 30th. We will begin to **scrapbook** again next month; look for a list of dates and topics very **SOON!** ☺

Dates to Remember

April 12-23 Testing Weeks
April 23rd K.A.T. Time

April 16th Science Report Due
April 27th N.E. States Quiz