

Mr. L's Friday Recap - 9/23-927



Look for the Friday Recap via Class Dojo and Remind each week. I will also be posting it to the WEBSITE each week: <http://mrlestagegrade4.weebly.com/mr-ls-friday-recap.html>
It will come as a PDF (longer.) Any issues opening let me know.

ABSENT WORK

If students are absent (I get it) we will do our very best to get them caught back up. If they miss a quiz/important classwork, the time available to make it up is during their SPECIAL (art, music, gym) - it is the only time I have without taking recess time and I don't believe in doing that unless it is 100% necessary. If they are out an extended period of time, please contact us and we will do our best to get materials together.

This Past Week:

Monday: Students received Week 2 spelling list. On the top it will say MUST DO or EXCUSED. Every week they will have a chance to have no activities. 18/20 (90% or higher) the week before gets them excused. They STILL have to study with or without activities.

You can always find the spelling lists here: <http://mrlestagegrade4.weebly.com/week-2.html>

Creative Spelling Activities page:

http://mrlestagegrade4.weebly.com/uploads/1/4/2/1/14219068/creative_spelling_home_work.doc.pdf

Current Events: Today we had our first 3 presenters from each class. WOW! What a great way to start the year. Everyone that presented was prepared and did a really nice job in front of their classmates. Some students used videos, while others used pictures to liven up their presentations. Keep up the good work and make sure we are paying attention to the schedule. Each Monday I staple a reminder notice into agendas for the upcoming presenters.



All information can also be found here:

<http://mrlestagegrade4.weebly.com/current-events.html>

Current Schedule:

http://mrlestagegrade4.weebly.com/uploads/1/4/2/1/14219068/current_event_schedule__7_.pdf

Week in Rap: Students worked together and heard about 3 major topics from last week:

- Endangered Species Act
- Ebola
- Social Media Addiction

They discussed, worked together and reviewed using the quiz/vocabulary game.

Writing Benchmark - in addition to using iReady to gauge our students reading ability, we also start the year off with a Writing Baseline. The prompt is given to all 4th graders to see where they are at in their Narrative Writing abilities. The prompt was “**You** are visiting someone who lives in a **very old house**. While exploring the house, you **discover a door hidden behind some curtains**. In several paragraphs, **write a story about what happens when you open the door!**” The students were encouraged to pre-write using sketching, brainstorming techniques. They then began writing their response without any help! The teachers used this information during a grade-wide meeting on Wednesday to better our instruction.

Tuesday: Students worked on drafts during Writer’s Workshop from yesterday’s writing benchmark. The students used sketching, webs, and other brainstorming techniques to get their ideas down yesterday. Today they were asked to put together their story as best they could. These were turned in and will be looked at with all 4th grade teachers tomorrow.

Wednesday:

Library: Classes went to the library for the 2nd time. They should have returned books as they have 2 weeks to check them out. I’m encouraging students to try a different kind of genre that they aren’t used to after conferencing with them. For example, many students read ONLY Graphic Novels, or ONLY Fiction. I’m trying to get them to try something else to help become well-rounded readers!

Data Meetings: All 4th grade ELA teachers met today to look at the grade-level MCAS scores, iReady scores, and Writing Baselines. We discuss grade-level areas of concern, areas of strength, areas of weakness, and overall better teaching practices. We then individualize the results to our own classrooms and come up with plans/goals for our students and team for the year. After getting to know the students the first weeks of school, this is our first real glimpse at academic abilities to start 4th grade which is extremely valuable!

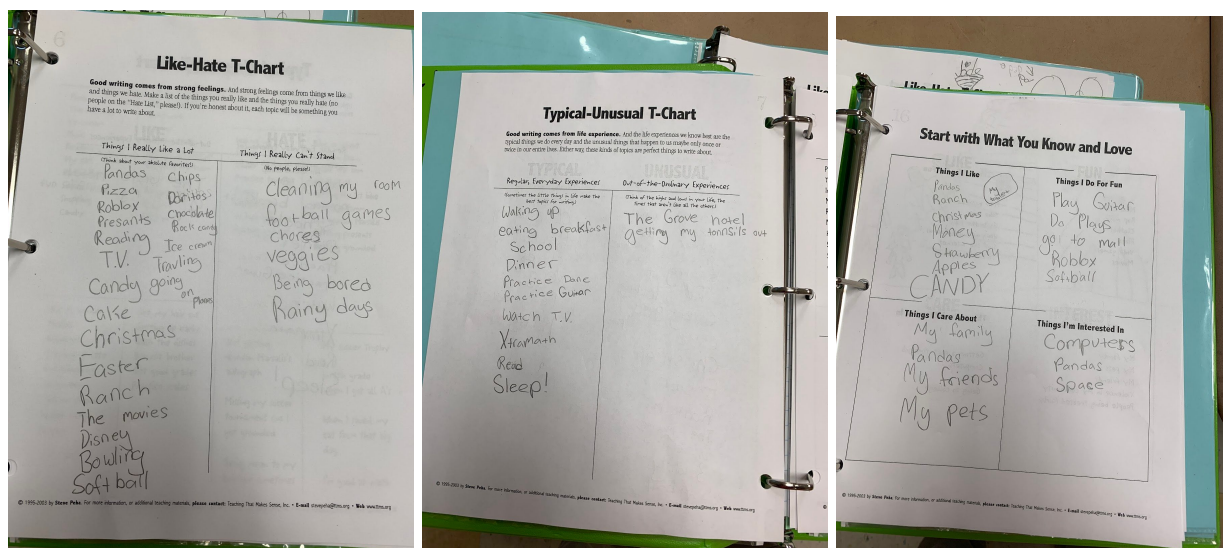
Wednesday Folders were full of “stuff”:

- Week 1 Spelling Quiz

Thursday:

Writer's Workshop: Students continued to come up with ideas for writing. We used T-Charts (Love/Dislike), (Typical/Unique) and "Favorites." We talked about how all ideas are good, but some ideas are better! In order to figure this out we focused on asking ourselves these questions:

- Is the topic something you have strong feelings about? (FEELINGS)
- Is the topic something you know a lot about? (KNOWLEDGE)
- Is the topic something you can describe in great detail? (DETAILS)
- Is the topic something your audience will be interested in reading? (INTEREST)
- Is the topic something your audience will feel is worth reading? (VALUE)

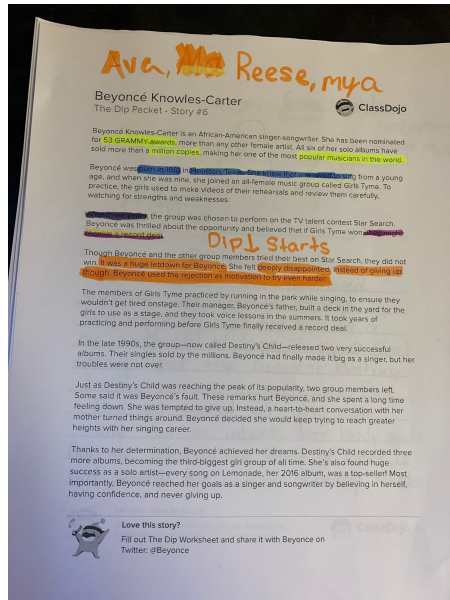


Center Work: we also went over last weeks "Grammar" centers. Students corrected work and discussed what they practiced in small groups last week. These materials get kept in their ELA binder in the section "Classwork" where they can look back as review throughout the year.

Book Talk Sign Ups: Students signed up for first round of Book Talks starting on 10/4. Book Talks are every Friday. They will come home with a Book Talk folder and reminder sheet leading up to their due date. All information can be found here:

<http://mrlestagegrade4.weebly.com/book-talks.html>

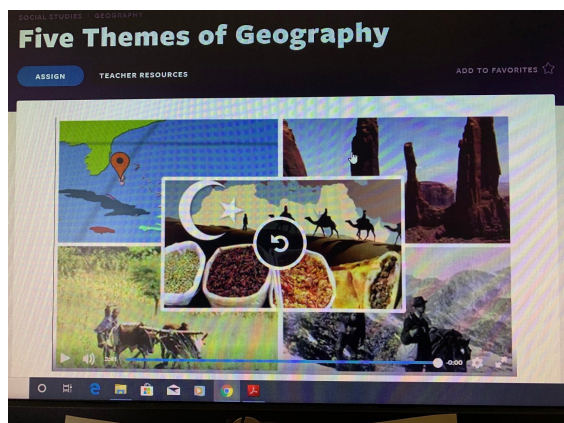
Class Dojo: Today we also finished up an activity on Perseverance. Students learned about "The Dip" - ask them all about it! Ask them who goes through the dip? How do they get out? We then read in small groups about some famous people who have gone through the dip themselves and students worked together to discuss and write briefly about what they learned.



Friday: Students went over the 5 main themes of Geography (they have a reading packet in their Social Studies binder that will be coming home to study next week):

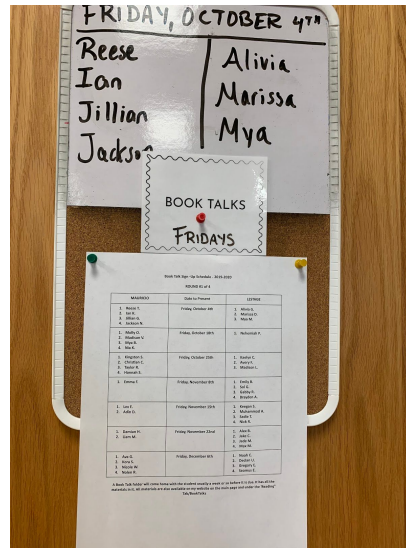
- 1) Place
- 2) Location
- 3) Human-Environment Interaction
- 4) Movement
- 5) Region

They should know the 5 oceans and 7 continents, compass rose, and latitude and longitude. We will be exploring the pros and cons of maps and globes as well as different types of maps and GPS. Materials here: <http://mrlestagegrade4.weebly.com/map-skills.html>



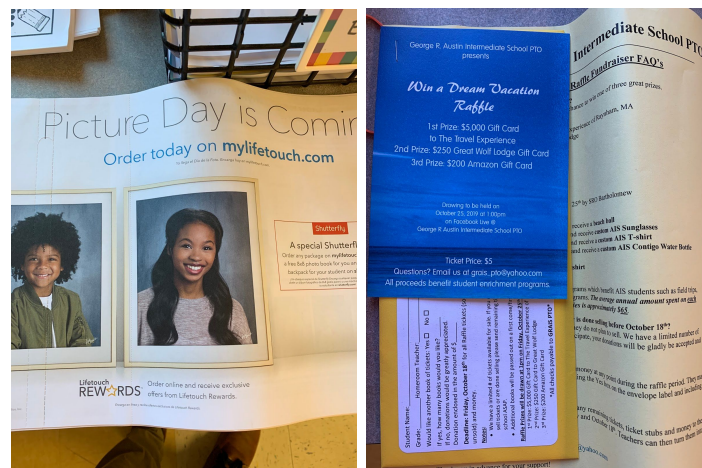
Spelling Basketball: Round 2 of Spelling basketball was played. Students worked identifying the Long a and Long i spelling patterns. Remember they will find out if they have spelling activities Monday morning.

Book Talks: We finished the week by watching some online examples of more Book Talks. Presentations begin next Friday and students will be bringing home their Book Talk folders when they have a presentation. The schedule will be posted online and they also will get it in their Wednesday folder. I also send home a reminder notice the week before they are due. All materials here: <http://mrlestagegrade4.weebly.com/book-talks.html>



IMPORTANT PAPERS CAME HOME TODAY: Unfortunately important papers from the office don't always get sent when we do Wednesday folders, so sometimes stuff will come home at random times (we don't like doing this but we have to!)

- **PICTURE DAY FORMS** came home because **PICTURE DAY** is Tuesday, October 1st
- **PTO Fundraiser packet** came home today! PTO has worked very hard to get a great fundraiser for our school to support many student/school causes.



Next Week at a Glance:

- Current Events Week 2
- Spelling Week 3 (Long e and o):
 - **Long e and o:**
 - **Long e is sometimes spelled ee or ea: sweet, each.**
 - **Long o is sometimes spelled oa or ow: throat, rainbow.**
- Good Beginnings in Writing (HOOKING OUR READERS!)
- Problems with Maps and Globes
- **Centers:** (fiction skills, character, setting, plot, theme, tone/mood)
- Because of Winn-Dixie by the end of the week!

Have a great weekend and GO PATS!



- Mr. L