

BVT

•Grading & Homework

- I've caught up on some "moldy old" grading this week. I got a bit behind the week of conferences. So if you notice some things come home that seem out of order with the things that we are currently studying, that's why.
- Homework continues to follow the same format: students receive the entire week's work on Monday, we go over it in class each day. The major change is that I am now grading and recording their grades (instead of just recording whether or not homework is turned in).
- Please feel free to go over and correct your child's homework with them- this is a teachable moment and increases your child's understanding of the subject matter!

•English Language Arts

- This week we will continue working on our goals, practicing our fluency, and we will do some Thanksgiving writing.
- We will NOT have spelling the week of Thanksgiving.

•Math

- Last week we covered some fundamental ideas of multiplication. This week we start learning our times tables.
- We will cover 0, 1, 2, 5, & 9 in the next two weeks.
- If you would like a set of flashcards, please let me know and I'll send one home with your child.

Upcoming Events...

- 11/19 Outdoor enhanced lesson with Mrs. Staal (dress for the weather!)
- 11/20 Mrs. Van Til at a conference, Mrs. VanderVennen will sub
- 11/21 8th grade play sneak preview/Team Event
- 11/22 Bill Vits Concert
- Materials for the Thanksgiving Project will be accepted through this week 11/22**
- 11/27 Animal dioramas due

•Science

- On Tuesday we will have a Blandford outdoor lesson with Mrs. Staal. We will be participating in a "predator and prey" simulation that focuses on Michigan animals.
- This week we are also going to be working on wrapping our animal inspired technology projects. I will post some pictures on the website, because these have been a great collaborative project.

•Bible

- Last weeks test went well, but the Bible memory that was included was a disaster. A number of students hadn't studied it at all and got quite anxious, some of the blanks were in the wrong spot in the test...it was an epic fail on my part—that having been said, I am planning to talk to some of my colleagues about how they do Bible memory and make some changes...stay tuned...
- We are going to study the stories of Isaac, Jacob, and Esau.
- In honor of Thanksgiving, our devotions will be a study of Psalm 105:1-3.

Desk Buddies

At some of your conferences we talked about “desk buddies.” In the latest seating arrangement, I’ve paired kids together. They are often responsible for helping each other (sometimes it’s with listening, following directions, sometimes finishing assignments or cleaning up). My desire is to put kids in pairs whose gifts compliment each other so that they can help each other. We have talked a lot about how helping and encouraging someone is not the same as letting them copy answers! It has been a work in progress as I look for good “pairings.” We have also talked about how Jesus wants us to serve each other and use our gifts to help others.

read alouds:

Last week we finished Follow My Leader, the story of an 11 year old boy who become blind after an accident with a firework. It chronicles how Jimmy acclimates to life without sight and gains independence by working with his seeing eye dog, Leader. It is also a story of forgiveness, as he is forced to reconcile with the other boy involved in the accident.

Our current read aloud is called Because of Mr. Terupt. It is the story of a motley group of fifth graders and their rookie teacher. It deals with some great themes including: what it feels like to be left out, that people grow and change and need to be forgiven, interactions with students with special needs.

Please note: There is a sequel to Because of Mr. Terupt that I **do not** recommend for third grade reading (often kids like the first book and want to read the sequel on their own). In the second book the class is in 6th grade and it deals with topics like changing bodies & peer pressure.