

[smccorkle@cemcs.org](mailto:smccorkle@cemcs.org)  
[mmotamedy@cemcs.org](mailto:mmotamedy@cemcs.org)

## UE3 Classroom Newsletter October 2011

Students returned from break rested and ready to pursue exciting new projects! It was good to see the children's smiling faces once again. We ended the first week back with our monthly UE bake sale, hosted by UE2 this time around. UE3 will be supplying the goodies for November, so look for a flyer with all the details in your child's Friday folder toward the end of the month.

Conferences are ongoing, so if you have not yet signed up, kindly do so now. These end-of-first-quarter conferences are mandatory. I have already met with some parents, and it has been a pleasure getting to know more about you and your child.

### Curriculum

Science: Fourth grade will be concentrating on animal studies. Each student will be writing a research paper on an animal of their choice, which will be due in mid-November. Prior to the break, I met with all students to discuss research methodology, and provided each student with a "gathering grid" graphic organizer. Students are currently in the process of using these graphic organizers to gather information on their animals. We will also be having a lesson on outlining, before beginning the actual writing process. At the end of the block, fourth grade students will have a final exam based on classwork assignments. Students will be provided with study questions, and will be making study cards each week.

Fifth grade students are currently in the process of learning about the basic unit of life, and animal kingdoms. Fifth grade students will be required to do a total of three projects (one level C, one level B, and one level A). In addition, students will have weekly quizzes, and a final exam in mid-November. Students have been given study questions for the first quiz, and have made the first set of study cards. We will continue in this format through the end of the block. Students who wish to do more than the required three projects are encouraged to do so, providing they are able to maintain at least an 80% average on all quizzes and projects.

Social Studies: Fourth grade students are learning about the three main Native American tribes in North Carolina: the Lumbee, the Catawba, and the Cherokee. Each student will be required to choose three "works of choice" projects to work on independently. They will also be required to do a presentation on their tribe with a partner that has been selected for them. I tried to place children together whose strengths would compliment each other. I am looking forward to their presentations in November.

Fifth grade students continue their unit on South American history, this time focusing on the time period of 1700 - present. They will continue the Social Studies work plan format from last quarter: three level C projects, one level B project, one level A project, and a final

exam. The final exam will be open notebook, so students are encouraged to take good notes during the power point presentations. A study guide will be provided to them at least a week before the final exam.

**Math** Fourth and Fifth grade students will continue their Singapore Math lessons with their teachers from first quarter. In addition, students will continue their work in their “Competitive Edge” math work books. Students are required to self-check; however, I hold review sessions once a week which all students are required to attend. Students are encouraged to ask for clarification on math concepts during these review sessions.

**Writing:** Both fourth and fifth grade students are working on State Writing Prompts which will be due the second week in November. The writing prompts this year tie into their Social Studies curriculum. Fourth grade students are in the process of reading two Native American legends, and their assignment will be to create one of their own. Fifth grade students will be doing a research paper on a South American country of their choice. They have selected their countries and have begun their research. They will be using graphic organizers to help them gather information and arrange their thoughts.

**Reading:** Fourth and fifth grade students continue to work on their assigned roles in their reading packets. Reading group discussions take place on Friday afternoons from 1:45 - 2:30. We are still in need of parent volunteers, and would greatly appreciate your help. Please contact one of our room parents, Mrs. Worrell or Mrs. VanWells, if you would like to volunteer in our classroom during reading groups. In addition to reading groups, students will be working on weekly reading comprehension packets. Each packet is comprised of an article or story and accompanying work sheets appropriate for their grade level.

**Spanish and Music:** Children continue to receive Spanish instruction on Monday and Wednesday mornings, and music on Fridays. They are becoming quite adept at recognizing and playing musical notes!

## **Classroom Needs**

We are in desperate need of clay (model magic or air dry), craft paints, poster boards, and diorama materials (craft “grass”, tumbled rocks), glue. With so many projects, materials go fast!

Also, we now have our own printer in the classroom (the good news), but we have to purchase our own toner (the bad news). Any gift cards to office supply stores would be greatly appreciated.

Snacks: some of our children forget their lunches, or do not always have enough to eat. If you would like to donate fruit cups, granola bars, cheese and cracker packets, microwave soup, etc., we would be most appreciative, and so would the student who receives it.

**Thank you for all you do!** We are so fortunate to have such wonderful parents and

students!