

**Salutations from *Sully***  
**January 12, 2009**

**Language Arts and Reading**

- Attached is the reading test for the class novel From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler. As a part of the final assessment on this unit, students are writing and illustrating a book review of this novel. They are following a three paragraph format which includes: a summary of the highlights of the book, a paragraph identifying the author's message, and a paragraph summarizing their opinion of the novel. Students began typing their reviews in the computer lab last Friday and will complete them this week. Watch for these reviews in the hallway along with an illustration of their favorite scene from the book. Student copies of this novel are due this week.
- Our next topic in Reading is *Tall Tales*. These exaggerated stories are often based on early America and include characters such as: Paul Bunyan, Pecos Bill, and Old Storm Along. We will begin this unit toward the end of this week.
- The focus of *Writer's Workshop* this week is writing a mystery. After completing a class mystery in reading, students are examining the key elements of this type of story. Students used a graphic organizer to begin planning their mystery. Before writing students must have identified the main characters, the setting, the mystery that has occurred, three clues, possible suspects, a red herring that will throw the detectives off guard, and a satisfying conclusion. That's a *tall order!* Our plan is to be ready to start writing by the middle of the week.
- Ferry students will be taking a school-wide writing test this week. Students will be given three titles and asked to select one to use as the basis for a creative writing story. I am anxious to see how my students do with these writing prompts.
- Attached is work on writing quotations properly. Most students are doing well with this skill. Our class is in the process of creating a chart of 100 words to replace the word 'said' when writing quotations. We are up to 74 words as of this morning!
- Just a reminder - Students are reading independently at home and recording it on their Reading Log along with responding at least twice a week to their reading in their *Reading Response Journal*.

## Spelling

- Students received a new Spelling Contract this past Thursday. Contracts are due on Thursday and the test is the same day.
- When completing Spelling assignments, please be sure to focus on word meaning when using your spelling words in sentences and paragraphs.

## Wordly Wise

- Students are presently working on Unit 8. The final test on this Unit is Friday. Unit vocabulary includes:

assemble	decrease	hew
banquet	desperate	hostile
cargo	edible	pledge
cask	frivolous	prosper
celebrate	harvest	task

## Science

- Students were assigned the second project of the year, *Wizard Week*. Each student signed up for a particular day during the week of January 26<sup>th</sup> on which to perform their Science project for the class. Students should be selecting and practicing their experiment this week.
- All of this week Science students will be studying the metric system. Students will have the opportunity to earn extra credit by completing a metric poster. Information will be sent later in the week.

## F.Y.I.

- Spanish classes resume this Thursday. Homework is due that day.
- There will be no school next Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup> in honor of Martin Luther King Day. Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> is a Staff Development Day for the teachers and students will not have school on this day as well.
- The weather is expected to be bitter cold by mid-week. Students should be dressed for outdoor recess.
- Just a reminder - This newsletter should be read, signed, and returned every Tuesday. Assignment books should be signed every night. Your support is greatly appreciated!

As always, have a wonderful week!

*Karen Sullivan*

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

- I have corrected my errors on the attached work.

Questions?