



# Middle School Newsletter

## September 8, 2009

### **Note from the Middle School:**

We are still working out the quirks for our newsletter. This is a temporary newsletter for the time being. We hope to have a newsletter that would include students' corner.

### **Important dates:**

**Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>** – Deaf Awareness Day at the Denver Zoo

**Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>** – Back to School Night

**Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>** – Deaf Awareness event at RMDS (more information to come)

## Sara Lee's corner

**Reading:** Springers: We have been reading Holes (chapters 1 – 7). We discussed about the setting in the story. We had to come up with materials we will need to create our setting project to help us understand the story better. We also worked on vocabulary study.

**Wolves:** We will begin reading The Mouse and the Motorcycle by Beverly Cleary. First we gathered information about house mouse and we had to write a report on the mouse.

**Writing:** Springers: We focused on understanding different purposes for writing and who is our audience. Also, we focused on narrowing down our idea with the purpose and audience in mind.

**Wolves:** We worked on narrowing down our idea and making it stronger by focusing on topics that mean a lot to us. Both classes worked on narrative piece, "My Dream Vacation"

**ASL:** We focused on handshapes and tried to create as many signs possible with the handshape. Then locations were introduced this week. We had to come up with signs with particular handshape in specific location. This was a challenge. We have Deaf Studies on Thursdays. We have been focusing on Deaflympics since it is currently happening in Taipei, Taiwan from September 5<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>. Each student had a project to do related to Deaflympics.

We also worked on ASL/English idioms on Fridays. The idioms we have done are:

Break a leg and It's raining cats and dogs (English).

PAH! & EYES-FALL-OUT (ASL)

## Jeff's corner

**Vocabulary:** Green Group/ Orange Group/ Blue Group: We have been study the spelling, part of speech and definition for each word. We focus on writing the word on the line in the sentence. We read the synonyms and antonyms. We also worked on vocabulary study.

**Grammar:** We have been study part of speech and definition for each word. We focus on writing the word on the line in the sentence. We also worked on Nouns, Verbs, Simple Subjects, Personal Pronouns, Possessive Pronouns,

**Math:** Green Group/Blue Group: Our student learned how to add and subtract fractions with mixed numbers

**Earth Science:** Our students learned how to differentiate between the three main groups of rocks including: Igneous rocks, sedimentary rocks, and metamorphic rocks. They should be able to differentiate these 3 groups of rocks.

**Physical Science:** Our students learned how to describe and measure the length of an object using metric units of centimeters or meter.

**Technology:** Our student learned how to evaluate new technology tools and resources from our iMac Computer Lab room.

## Mary's corner

**Reading:** Wizard Wands: The students have been reading Mr. Henshaw written by Beverly Cleary from page 1 to 30. Our main focus is to analyze the character's mood, settings, and summarizing. The students have been working with their guide reading assignments on searching for the settings, describing the characters, and summarizing.

**Twilight:** The students have been reading The Story of Anne Frank written by Brenda Ralph Lewis. First we discussed the genre of the book which it is non-fiction. Then we discussed how much we know about World War II. The students read from page 1 to 13. They have been working with guide reading assignment searching for settings, describing the characters, and summarizing.

**Writing:** Wizard Wands: The students have worked on writing letters to someone they admire the most. They did peer editing with each other's work. They also worked on word orders and sentence parts.

**Twilight:** The students have been writing "Dear Diary" letter. They completed peer editing task. The students will have one-on-one conference with the teacher to revise their writing. They also did work with word ordering and sentence parts.

**Math 6<sup>th</sup> grade:** Orange group: The students have been working with place values with decimal points. They will continue to practice identifying place values with different digit numbers.

**Purple Group:** The students completed Chapter 1 test. The students are now working on multiplying with decimal points.

**U.S. History-7/8<sup>th</sup> grade:** The students have been studying about Native Americans before the Europeans arrive to America. They worked in groups to research on how different groups of Native Americans survive in different ways across the country.

**U.S. Geography-6<sup>th</sup> grade-** The students learned on different roles of social scientists. Now, they are working on creating maps of North America.