

Effingham Fourth Grade News

By Cherrie Preut

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The Six Traits

Each time we write we refer to the six traits in an effort to improve our writing. I thought you would be interested in knowing what those traits are.

Ideas/Content: The topic is well defined and supported.

Organization: The sequencing of events makes sense.

Word Choice: The writer creates a picture in the reader's mind.

Conventions: The piece has correct spelling, punctuation, capitalization, usage, structure and grammar.

Voice: The voice of the author comes through, giving the sense of a real person speaking.

Sentence Fluency: The writing flows together smoothly.

Season of Caring

We are focusing on the idea of "caring" in our counseling lessons. To practice this trait we will be writing letters to soldiers in the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. We will also be helping the school collect food, new toys, hats, gloves and blankets for the Atchison County Christmas Bureau.

Calendar Notes

Christmas Program
Monday, December 3rd
7:00 PM
High School Auditorium
Students need to be there at 6:45

Curriculum Highlights

We have been working on equations, addition and subtraction this past week in math. Knowing the fact families has helped us to solve our equations. Also we have learned to check our own subtraction problems by using our addition.

In language we compared and contrasted basketball and football games using a Venn diagram. Then we used a "Hamburger" graphic organizer to write paragraphs with a main idea and details. This organizer helped us to focus our ideas.

In Social Studies we reviewed our major landforms of the United States. Students had to identify landforms on a USA map for their standards quiz.

We are finishing up our study of the earth. This week we looked at three erosion and weathering centers. At the first rotation students used a blow dryer to simulate the effect of wind on sand. In the second rotation students made observations about the way water froze in between rocks. Finally, the students were able to add water to soil. They observed the different ways the soil was affected by the runoff of water, gravitation and how erosion could be stopped with the addition of grass, rocks and sticks. This study of the earth has been an enjoyable one that has really piqued the students' interest.