

5th & 6th Grade Language Arts

Into the 3rd Quarter!

Novels

Both the fifth and the sixth graders have completed the novels that they began right after Christmas break. The 6 grade class read, Someone Was Watching. It was a great way to introduce the students to the "suspense novel," and the students seemed to enjoy the experience. Throughout the reading of the book, students posted their answers to eight writing prompts on our Wikispaces website. They also created character traits and theme webs using our new software program, Inspiration.

The 5th graders were divided into 3 groups, and each group read a different novel. The students read together in groups and then had a group discussion on what they read. The group reading Nory Ryan's Song did an excellent job posting their questions and comments to the Wikispaces website. They also handled some challenging vocabulary. The group reading Missing May were the first to finish a theme web. They used the theme, "Everybody needs love; Everybody needs to love." Using the Inspiration software, they connected this theme to the 4 main characters in the story. Finally, the group reading Eleven enjoyed the novel from start to finish. We were recently able to purchase a set of 15 of these novels. It is geared toward young boys. This group also contributed their comments to Wikispaces and created character webs using Inspiration.



Both 5th & 6th graders are planning projects centering on the 2010 Olympics. The games will begin on February 12th and run for 2 weeks. The 5th grade students will be creating PowerPoint presentations on the sport of their choice. The 6th grade students will be making videos and Movie Maker presentations. They also have selected a sport to cover. In their videos they will be reporting on the results of the game. This is the first time we will be using the video camera so it will be a learning experience.

Writing Contest

Students in the 5th & 6th grades may enter an essay writing contest sponsored by Bic Pen Company. I will be getting out more information next week. This is a very competitive competition as they expect over 10,000 contestants. This essay is not mandatory, nor will students earn a grade. I will assist students in developing their ideas, proofreading, and editing. However, the actual writing of the essay will be primarily on their own time. The students seem excited about the prospects of winning a laptop computer or cash prizes in the amount of \$100 or \$500. If your child decides to enter, I will be sending you complete details.