



5th & 6th Grade Language Arts Mrs. Miritello

February, 2012

Energy by Design

This year, the 6th grade class is participating in a contest about energy conservation. “Energy by Design is a poster contest developed by Nicor and the National Energy Foundation. The contest is opened to children Grades K—8. It is designed to combined a child’s artistic talent with the ability to portray how to use energy efficiently” (<http://energybydesign.org/>). In addition to the poster, each student must also submit an entry form that includes a 40 word or less narrative of ways to conserve energy. All entries must be postmarked by February 10, 2012. If you are interested in all the details, including prizes, go to the website energybydesign.org.

My plan is to have a PowerPoint presentation of all of the art work displayed in the computer lab during our open house on Sunday, January 29th.

Prefixes, Suffixes & Roots

“Many studies show the importance of building children’s vocabulary. One study has shown that a set of 20 prefixes and 14 roots, and knowing how to use them, will unlock the meaning of over 100,000 words. A similar study showed that a set of 29 prefixes and 25 roots will give the meaning to over 125,000 words. Imagine adding suffixes!” (<http://www.readingfirst.virginia.edu/>) This is a powerful statement about the benefits of including the study of word parts into our curriculum. Therefore, at the beginning of the 3rd quarter both the 5th & 6th grade classes will be working on prefixes, suffixes and roots. In addition to the academic value of these lessons, I have incorporated group work, games and projects that the students will enjoy.

Novels for the 3rd Quarter

I’m excited about reading novels with both the 5th and 6th grade classes in the 3rd quarter. 5th grade will be reading *The Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil Frankweiler*. The 6th grade class will be reading *View From Saturday*. Both novels are written by E.L. Konigsburg. I am confident that the students will not only enjoy reading the novels, but they will learn about many new places and events that the author includes in her stories.
