Volume 9 January 29, 2010



Sixth Grade Scoop

Free Publication

Barry School, Cortland, NY

Current Topics

Inside this issue:

Important Dates 1 **Current Topics** 1

ELA News 2

Announcements 2

Email:

acaravella@cortlandschools.org srhyde@cortlandschools.org ssnyder@cortlandschools.org

Phone:

(607) 758-4150

Math

Students are still assembling their own little books as part of our **Pre**unit.

Algebra



Next, we will cover:

- Multiplying and dividing integers
- Plotting points on a coordinate plane in all four quadrants
- Using our new knowledge of the four operations and how they relate to integers in algebraic equations and expressions

Science

- Types of Rocks
- Weathering and Erosion
- Rock Cycle
- Earth's Structure
- **Fossils**
- Folds
- **Faults**





Important Dates



Social Studies

We have begun our unit on Ancient Greece. Students are learning about:

- Geography and location of ancient Greece.
- Gods, goddesses and mythology
- Daily life in ancient Greece
- Greek alphabet
- Athens and Sparta



1/27 Second Marking Period Ends

2/1 No School-Staff Work Day

2/8 Report Cards Distributed

2/15-2/17 NO SCHOOL- Presidents' Day Break

2/23 Fundraiser Begins (ends March 9th)

2/25 Founder's Day and Dinner Page 2 Sixth Grade Scoop



Reading and Writing News



Mrs. Snyder

The students worked hard and did well on the book packet report. Later this quarter, students will report on another AR book of their choice by packing one more character suitcase.

~Please keep reading. The new AR quarter has begun! Students should have earned approximately 10% of their AR points for the quarter already~

The students are also at the publishing stage of the end-of-the-book project for Jerry Spinelli's Maniac Magee. They have chosen two characters from the novel and have pulled out specific quotes from the book that prove various personality characteristics. They were also asked to make a sketch of each character to show how each reader pictured him/her when enjoying the novel. The students were shown a rubric throughout the process and have the opportunity to earn up to 100 pts. on the project.

Also, please note that students will only be assigned spelling words during full, 5— day weeks. The skill will be introduced on Mondays and the packet will be due on Fridays, prior to taking the exam. Thanks!

Mrs. Rhyde

In **Reading Workshop**, students are focusing on the setting of the story as they read independently. The setting is created through the language of the story and therefore, students are using sensory details to help them figure out the setting of the story.

In guided reading, students who are reading Maniac Magee focused their reading this week on setting, characterization, and the author's purpose. Students who are reading The Phantom Tollbooth focused on the setting, figurative language, and point of view while reading this week.

In Writing Workshop, students learned a third strategy for generating a personal narrative: looking for an object in the room that sparks a memory and writing about that memory. Students will continue to practice using the strategies. Next, students will select a "seed" story to being working on and developing.

~Please keep reading. The new AR quarter has begun! Students should have earned approximately 10% of their AR points for the quarter already~

Mr. Caravella

In **Reading Workshop**, we have begun a new quarter and are looking forward to all the new books we will read this quarter. Our personal goals are to read at least 7 new chapter books at our reading level before the end of the 3rd quarter.

In guided reading, we continue to read <u>Stargirl</u>, by Jerry Spinelli, and <u>Bridge to Terabithia</u>, by Katherine Paterson. We explore the connections to our own lives and how we might act if we were the characters in the stories. In another group, we finished writing our stories based on the <u>Catwings</u> series. In our reader's notebooks, we will be writing about predictions for the books we are reading and supporting these predictions with evidence.

In **Writing Workshop**, we continue to develop our personal narratives by drafting, revising and editing our work. We recently examined <u>Peter's Chair</u>, by Ezra Jack Keats, to help give us ideas for crafting our own story leads.

Teammate of the Week: Caitlyn

Announcements



Barry Bulldog Bulletin Online!

The Barry Bulldog Bulletin is now available online! Please go to:

http://www.cortlandschools.org/teacherpage.cfm?teacher=1195

and click "Newsletter" on the left side of the page.



We are on the web!

Please visit Mr. Caravella's class webpage and blog, which are located at the following addresses:

Website: http://www.cortlandschools.org/teacherpage.cfm?teacher=834

Blog: http://mrcaravella.blogspot.com



C.A.R.E.S. Award

Congratulations to our C.A.R.E.S. Award winners for January:

- Rachel Vestal
- Maria Kostiv
- Dylan Couch