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Subject: Great Blue Heron Herald- February 9th

Hello Heron Families!

Today in particular was such a fantastic day in our Upper Elementary Environment! All the students were so engaged with learning I found it difficult to pull anyone from their work for lessons, I did of course, but it was such a beautiful experience. So many things are up and coming so please read on for classroom happenings, upcoming field trips and events.

Classroom Happenings

This week in practical life we had a few friends who were interested in creating a fundraiser for our classroom pet Bili the Bunny. They were able to speak at the school fundraising committee meeting and came up with a few plans on how to raise funds for a new enclosure, supplies and other items to make our furry companion happy and comfortable. All of the students are on board, so please look out for upcoming news on this.

Our math area is very busy with practice work this week. Many students are going back to lessons they have been presented with. All students are practicing a Daily Math with a mixture of all kinds of on-level questions ranging from addition to ratios and geometry. In the Friday Math Quiz you can see how much your child has retained from the week. All math quizzes are open notes and materials are allowed, no assistance from peers though! It's a great practice to lead the children to independent work they will see in higher level classes in the future.

In language we are still focusing on writing. All of the students are working on a composition in essay style. The 4th years just completed their first introductory paragraph using information from the given text on "How wild animals and humans affect each other". This week we are looking at editing the intro paragraph and how to construct body paragraphs with evidence from the text to support our writing. The 5th and 6th year students are honing their skills with opinion and explanatory writing. They planned out their essays last week and wrote their introduction paragraphs as well. Today we workshopped their intros and discussed the purpose of citing evidence and how to use it to back up our claims in our writing. The 5th years are writing on the topic, "Should elementary students switch classes?" (opinion). The 6th years are explaining, "What does being courageous mean?" (explanatory).

In our cultural studies of Florida History we are looking closely at what it means to have been a pioneer. We saw examples of what a day in the life of a child was in the mid to late 1800's and compared that to today. The students will be grouped to further research different towns in Florida during the same time period and present why that town was the best one to live in in the mid to late 1800's. Fun time traveling experience! Students are also hard at work studying for their GeoBee, don't forget about those pledge forms due on the 16th!

Our science lessons continue to delve deeper into how winds are generated and work within the Earth's atmosphere (4th). Ask your 5th year about their water cycle bracelets! They had a fun time

making them, asking what each color stands for. The 6th years are going to explore why roller coasters work, hello kinetic and potential energy!!!

Important Dates

February 10th- SPCA field trip

- Those students that brought donations for the SPCA will be visiting tomorrow! Those staying behind will have a fun activity in the afternoon for the SPCA.

February 15th- Studios of Key West Field Trip

- Students will enjoy another artist from our local gallery and will experience making art of their own.

February 11-18th- Parent Teacher Conferences

- Please click on the link below to sign up for your conference! We have 16 out of 22 students signed up. Let's go for 100% by this Friday!
- Remember: There should be only one conference per student. Thank you!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054CA9AC2AA2F58-2122>

- These will take place on our half-day Fridays and a few days are scheduled after regular school hours during the week. These conferences will be in person OR virtual.

Rabbit Care!!!

Bili the Bunny would LOVE to have a family take him home for the weekend. It has been a while since someone has taken him home, he gets very lonely!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054ca9ac2aa2f58-rabbit1>

We would also like to request that we have donations made for his care. The supplies needed for him can get expensive so any little bit of monetary donations or just buying what is needed would be a great help! Thank you all in advance.

Classroom Wish List

If you feel like you can contribute to our classroom with donations, please feel free to look through our wish list.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2PVEY5X1S3WMC?ref=wl_share

Volunteer/Service hour Opportunities

- Pet care over the weekends
- Carpet cleaning (we have the supplies)
- Rug washing
- Upholstery cleaning- classroom couch
- Rip out old carpet tiles and replace them with laminate tiles in our new kitchen area!
- General campus up-keep

Thank you for taking the time to stay caught up! It takes a village!!!!

Sandy McCoy

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