

WORDEN'S WORDS

- MONTHLY UPDATE ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING IN ROOM 11 -

SEPTEMBER EDITION

OUR FIRST CLASS MASS

Our first class Mass of the year was on September 11. It was a little different having no family actually in church with us and sitting up front next to the altar. The fifth graders stepped up to the plate though and did a nice job. Those that did not participate in this mass will participate in our November class Mass. Pictures of individual students during the Mass may be found on our class website under Students - Photo Gallery - Photos or <http://mrswordenswebsite.weebly.com/photos.html>



RELIGION

We just took our second religion test of the year. FYI, these tests are open book so they are able to look up answers that they do not know. If your child comes home with a low score on a religion test, you might ask them if they looked back at their textbook!!

Also, one of the reported standards in fifth grade on their report card is the recitation of prayers. We work on these each Wednesday before the early out. The prayers that they need to know and recite for the report card are Act of Contrition, Apostles Creed, Rosary, Jesus Prayer, and Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love. If they have not passed all these by report card time, they will receive a 2, meaning that they are progressing. If they have passed all of them, they will receive a 3 (met expectations). If they have passed all of these, plus prayers from other years and the new prayers introduced in fifth grade, they will receive a 4 (exceeds expectations). The only grade you might be concerned about is a 1, indicating that they are making no effort to learn their prayers.

CONFERENCES

Fall conferences are being held on October 14 and 15. Make sure you have signed up for a time. You should have received an email about this. This fall you have the option of a traditional conference in person or a virtual option.

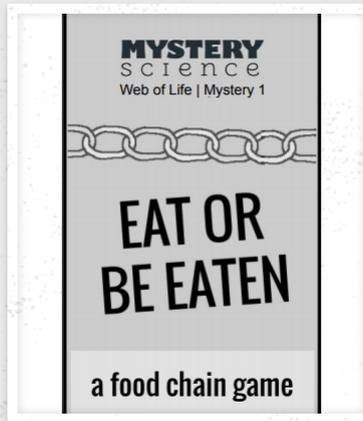
For in person conferences, masks are required and social distancing must be maintained. Conferences will be ten minutes in length, and only parents should come, no students at this time.

If you are doing a virtual conference, and I am not there right away, please be patient as I will join you as soon as I am able.

SCIENCE

We have been studying about food chains. Ask your child to tell you what a food chain is and what the two food chain questions are. Hopefully they will be able to tell you! Here are some pictures of the class playing a food chain game during science class.





SOCIAL STUDIES

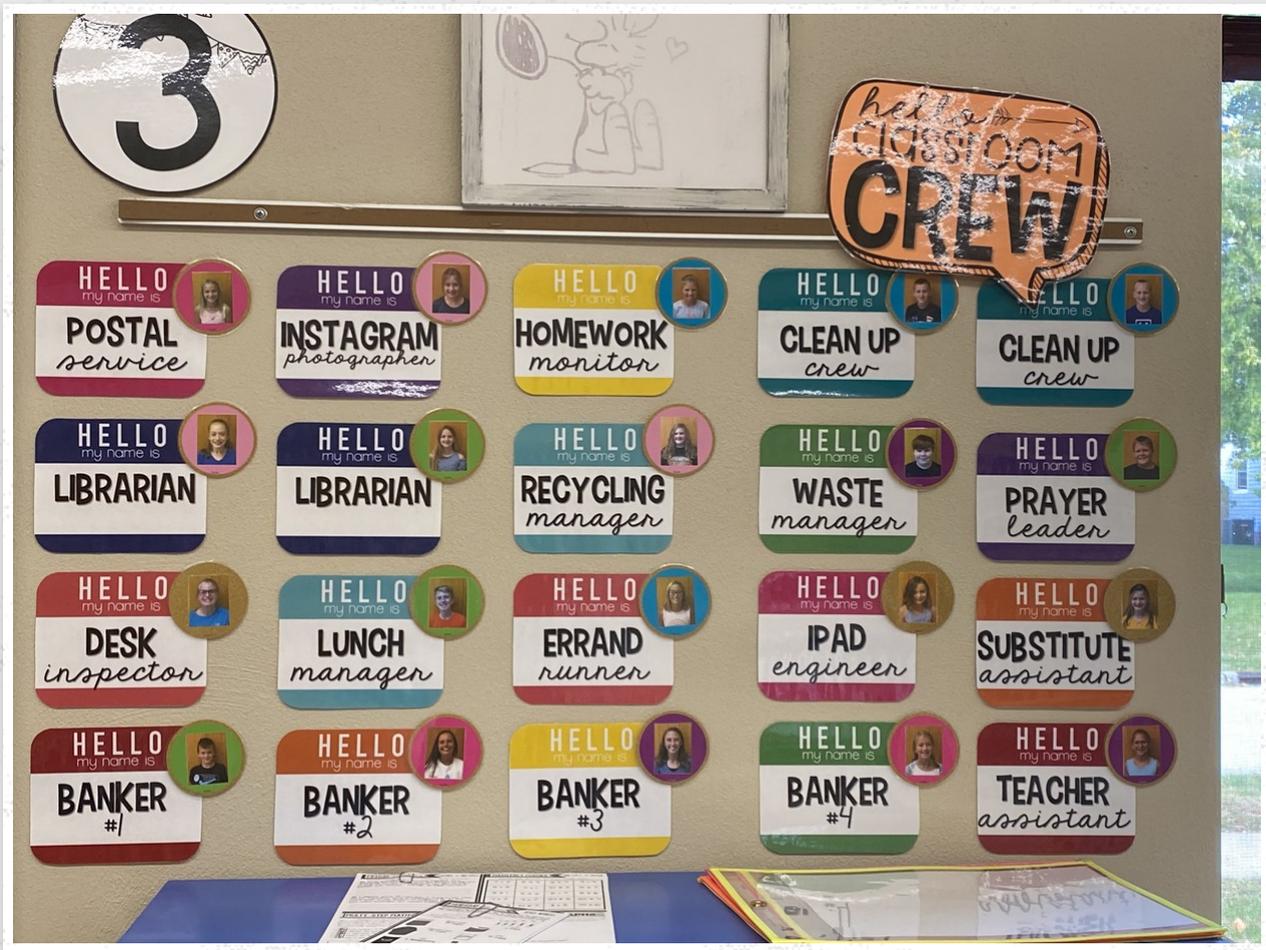
We have been learning all about the economy. Lately we have been talking about supply and demand, banks, and taxes. We are having a quiz about these topics on Thursday. We will then talk about consumers and business and spending and saving. We will then take a quiz on those topics. To conclude our study of economics, we will review all the topics we have studied and then have a test over it all. The days for the quiz and test (and any other test or activity) will be posted on my website under What's Happening in Room 11.

<http://mrswordenswebsite.weebly.com/whats-happening.html>



JOBS

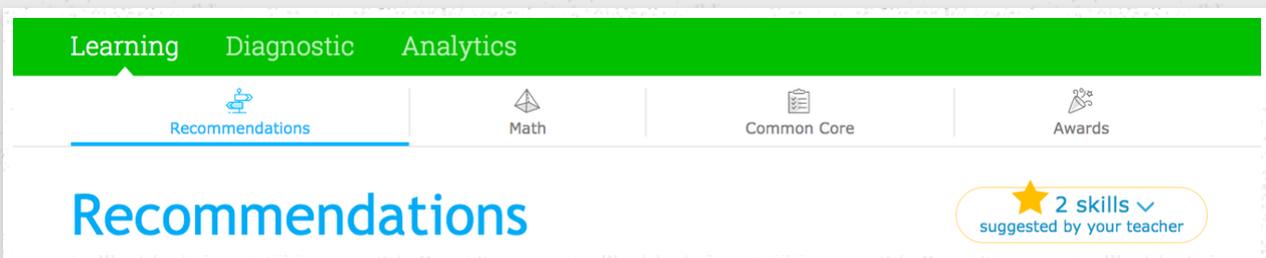
The fifth graders applied for a classroom job and have been working hard to earn their pay. They are paid once a week. At the end of each month, if they have been doing their job well, they will receive a raise. Some of the workers have been awesome!! Their primary and most important job is their schoolwork though.



MATH

Last week we took our first math test on place value, multiplication, and expressions. The students now know what the tests are like, and that they should take their time so they are working carefully and accurately. We will continue to work on these skills through our daily reviews in class. The next chapter will be on division. That is the only topic for that chapter so it should be covered more quickly and be less challenging.

Also, I purchased a subscription to IXL for math for this school year. Since they missed some of their learning last year, I thought it would be good extra practice. They are assigned skills that go with each chapter to help reinforce what they are learning. They each have a username and password and may work on this at school or at home. There is a link to IXL on the Math page on my classroom website. When they log in, they will see Recommendations. At the right on the top are the "skills suggested by your teacher". These are the skills that go along with our current unit of study. They may also practice any other skills at any time.



#CLASSROOMBOOKADAY

#classroomBookaDay is a goal to read aloud a picture book every day of the school year to students at any grade level. I have been doing this for a few years now, and I must admit it is one of my favorite parts of the day. These books are read purely for the enjoyment and love of reading. The photo below shares some of the benefits of this daily read aloud.

We have a bulletin board in our classroom that keeps a record of the books that have been read. They are also available to be viewed on our classroom website, where the students vote on their favorite book of the week. The favorite book gets a star behind the book on our bulletin board.

<http://mrswordenswebsite.weebly.com/bookaday.html>

Benefits of #classroombookaday Picture Book Read Alouds

Equalize Access to Text for All Students

More Chances to Add Inclusive Texts

Daily Chance to Target Reading Standards

Practice Critical Reading Daily

Develop Comparative Analysis Skills

Better Understanding of Theme

Authentic Common Texts to Learn From

Using Text Evidence to Support Claims

Discuss Complete (& Complex) Texts

Variety of Curriculum (& non-) Topics

Develop & Apply Inferencing Skills

Bring Joy to Reading Experience

Scaffold Reading & Thinking Skills

Build Classroom Community

Develop Empathy

Time to Enjoy Class

Build Schema

Increase Vocabulary

Improve Comprehension

Enhance Listening Skills

Develop Visual Literacy Skills

Strong Fluency Modeling

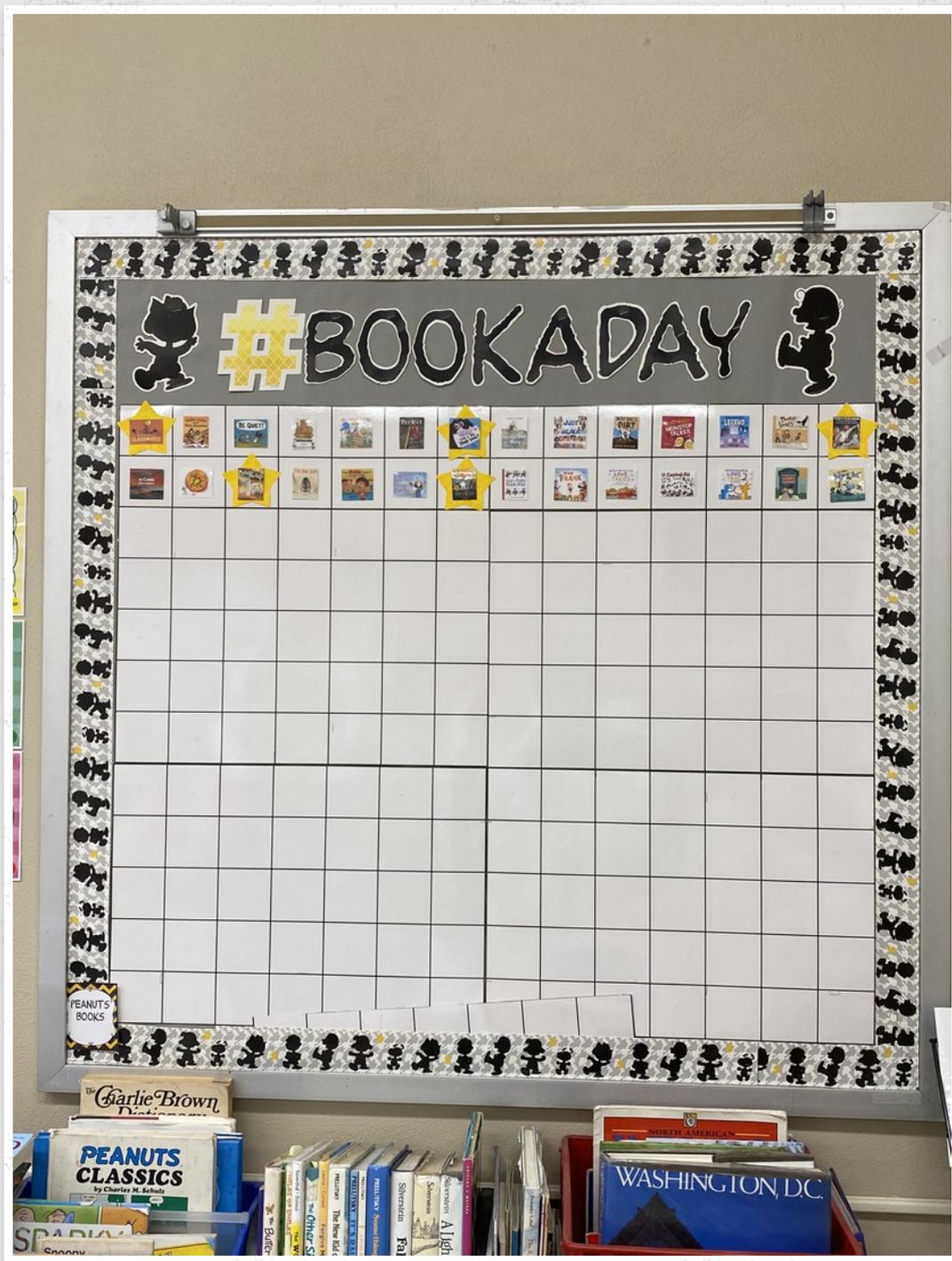
Support Students' Identity

Social Emotional Learning

Show Thoughtfulness About Text

Responsive to Classroom Needs

©2019 Jillian Heise | @heisereads



THE STUDENTS WERE ASKED WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO BE BACK AT SCHOOL AFTER A FIVE MONTH BREAK. HERE ARE THEIR ANSWERS:

It is good to be back at school. Why I think it is good to be back at school is because I can see my friends every day. I am glad that we do not need to be online. My reasoning for this is because I think it would be a bit harder to learn online. I like St. Mary's so much that not being here would be so sad. That is what I think about being back at school after five and a half months.

Being back at school is a lot nice than online school, and I like to see my friends. Online school is not fun because then I can't see my friends and the five months was crazy because I could not see my friends or see my teacher, and my mom pretended to be my teacher. That was bad. I hated that and missed my friends, but we had less work.

Being back at school after five months is cool. I get to see my friends again. I get to learn again.

It's nice getting to play with friends; to play dodgeball and kickball again. Having to do math, reading, and social studies! I love P.E. and recess where you get to have so much fun.

It's OK being back. I am OK with it, but I still don't love it because I don't like to sit inside and sit in an uncomfortable chair. I like that I still get to see my friends and have some fun. I also love the food here. I am trying new foods.

It was very nice. I loved being off for that long. I had a lot of fun working with my cows, but it feels good to back at school and to see all of my friends.

I get to see my friends, play kickball, and have lunch. I get to play and talk about stuff. I get to have P.E., have funnel cakes for breakfast, and play on our iPads.

I feel great about being back in school after not being in school for 5 1/2 months. It's made me be a lot more productive. It's a lot of fun to get to see all of my friends five days a week!

I like seeing all of my friends and having a really fun teacher to be with! I like doing all of the fun jobs we get to do! Overall I'm happy to be back.

Being out of school for five months was kind of weird because I am only used to three, but we did do school at home for two months. It felt weird to be back to school, but it felt kind of good.

It feels amazing to be at school again! We have been quarantined for almost a half of a year. It's nice to see my friends again and do other stuff like art, P.E., music, and technology! Even though I dislike masks A LOT, it's worth it to see my friends again! Hopefully soon everyone can get over covid and we can get back to normal. That would make this year a lot better!

Being out of school for five months and coming here was good and bad at the same time. It was fun at first because we had so many crafts to do and so much time on our hands, but each day I got more and more lazy and being lazy is NOT fun. I would want to do something and then give up because I didn't want to do it. Butttttt I'm back to school and I'm no longer lazy! :)

To be back in school feels like a dream. it seems so different than last year. The one thing I don't like about being back in school is getting up so early in the morning. I'm so grateful to be able to learn and see my friends. It's awesome.

On Friday the 13th, I thought i was going back to school on Monday, but then a moment that changed my life happened! School was out until the next year! At first we all thought we were going back to school on April 30th, but that got delayed. At first I was happy, and then I got really bored. But finally, on August 24th, 2020, we went back. I am VERY happy.

It is good to be back in school because it gives you things to do. It is different because you have to wear a mask and stay six feet apart. It is weird to be back in school.

It feels great to be here and be able to see my friends again. It also feels good to be on a normal schedule every day. I also love having the school food. It is so good. The one thing I don't like is getting up early. I would rather sleep in, but other than that it is really good!

I feel amazing to be back in school. Because of covid, we didn't get to do much. At fair it was pretty boring except I showed my calf. I loved going down to my cabin at the lake.

I was excited to come to school because I got to see my friends, and I get to read Helen Keller.

To me, it seems a lot like normal school with a little bit of plastic and masks. I'm just glad to see my friends and go to school.

LOOKING AHEAD...

October 14 and 15 - Conferences

October 20 - Picture Retake Day

October 27 - End of First Quarter

October 1-31 Banana Split Month - Buy SCRIP!!