

## Home Connection

Friday, February 10, 2017

### Brewer y Trail

Dear Families,

As spring draws nearer, so too does testing season. We've had a few questions about when testing will begin for our students, and we'll make sure to pass that information along as soon as we have a schedule from our school testing coordinator. 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will only be having their usual iStation and MAPs assessments, but third grade will be adding the PARCC to the usual assessments. We'll keep you posted.

**Valentine's Day:** Our class will be having a small Valentines exchange on Tuesday, and students are welcome to bring in cards for their classmates. Please remember that CIS does not allow candy, as per our nutrition policy. However, healthy snacks are permitted. Students took home a hard-copy list today of names to help address their Valentines.

**Math:** Students are exploring fractions this month, as well as reviewing old friends (addition, subtraction, and multiplication fluency). 2<sup>nd</sup> grade focus has been on comparing fractions (greater, less than, or equal), while 3<sup>rd</sup> is exploring equivalent fractions and adding and subtracting common denominators. I've posted a website on our Google Site (under 'Technology and Research – Math Games) that has many fraction resources and a few games.

**Reading:** Reading at home is vital in promoting fluency and comprehension in your child. Please make sure that your student has at least 20 minutes set aside for reading (in Spanish or English) per day. Ask them simple recall questions about the text, but mix in a couple questions that require predictions or making a personal question. It's a great way to extend the skills they learn at school to their time at home! *\*\*Please return Spanish readers as your child finishes them, and Maestra Brewer will replace them with new ones!\*\**

**Science Fair:** All students in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> have successfully chosen their topic and written their science question. Our next steps will be to research related information and scientific terms. For eager students, this research can be done at home and brought to school (many took home notes this week of what they wanted to find out), but classtime next week will also be provided. Our goal is for students to bring home their partially completed science packets on February 20<sup>th</sup>. This will give them almost a month to conduct experiments at home, collect and present data, and work on their posterboards.

Mrs. Trail will have a limited number of tri-fold science boards available for \$1, but your child may want to pick out their own. There is no size requirement for the board – as long as their information will fit on it, it's fine.

**Classroom Economy:** We're starting to reintroduce our classroom economy. This is a terrific activity that teaches children to add and subtracting money, as well as concepts such as supply and demand and how the value of goods and services is determined. We are not opening up our class "Marketplace" yet, but we will include information about this in next week's newsletter.

**Where We Are In Time and Place - New Mexico:** We will be wrapping up our unit next week. We'd love to hear about any connections or students actions your student has taken as a result of his or her learning. Feel free to drop us an email, send us a picture, or return the hardcopy Fridge Poster with your observations. Feedback like this makes us more effective and responsive educators!

Have a wonderful weekend!