



January 20, 2012

TEAM 36 NEWS UPDATE

Dear Parents,

Team 36 is settling back into the business of learning after the holiday break with many new activities and surprises in place. Seating arrangements have been changed – again. Learning to work with all students and in all corners of the room builds flexibility and acceptance. New units have been introduced in several areas as well.

January is Report Card Month – mid-year report cards will be coming home this month. I ask that you review the contents with your child and applaud his/her strong efforts and hard work. Fifth grade is demanding and the students have responded with enthusiasm and dedication these past four months. What has gone well? Where can I improve is a great conversation to have with our child.

Energy Unit– The new science unit is Energy, taught by Mr. Weinstein. Students visit Mr. W twice a week for fun and interactive lessons connected to various types of energy. A detailed study guide will be completed near the end of the unit as good preparation for the final test.

Fantasy Genre– The students are reading fantasy books for their independent reading this month and responding in their Reader's Notebook. I have asked them to share their ideas with someone at home to further their thinking. End of month "Fan-Book" project booklets were given out this week and three examples were shown. They are due on Friday, January 27th and will be presented during Book Talks that week.

Personal Essay Writing – This Lucy Calkins unit is an extension of what students have been asked to do all year, respond with clarity and thoughtfulness to their own ideas as a way to help others better understand their point of view. Thesis statements were developed this week and three to four reasons to convince the audience. Strong, supporting details will provide the critical evidence. We expect to publish our essays by the end of the month. Essay topics represent a wide range of opinions and beliefs by these young adults.

13 Colonies – students will embark on comprehensive social studies unit next week. Your child will be placed on an “elite” colonial region team (northern, middle or southern) to research and teach the class about the region. Teams will be given specific tasks to complete. This colony project will greatly prepare them to show what they know with confidence on the end unit test sometime in February. Ask your child about colonial life in room 36.

THANK YOU– A very, very special thanks goes out to the Baker family for purchasing a deluxe, electric sharpener for our class. We even drafted a quick essay thesis and strong support for why this is an important tool to have in a 5th grade classroom.

Wish List– Bounty paper towels, Ticonderoga pencils, tissues, large magic markers,

Please be sure to have your child dress for the outdoor weather conditions each day. We try to get outside every day if possible.

Thanks for your continue support,

Ginny Hoehlein