Mrs. Tritch’s Classroom



Newsletter #13

December 9 – December 13, 2013

**Homework:**

**Writing Prompts: ½ page each day to be written in writer’s notebook section of literacy notebook.**

**Monday-** Free Choice!

**Tuesday-** Write a story that includes the following words: elf, pinecone, ferocious, lights, puppy, snow

**Wednesday-** Describe the water cycle. Include the different parts and describe what happens at each stage. Use notes from class or online research to help with your writing.

**Thursday-** Make a list of 10 gifts you could give someone you love. Here’s the catch- the gifts cannot cost any money! These gifts you give cannot be purchased at the store. Be creative!

**Vocabulary Words:**

**1.** condensation

**2.** precipitation

**3.** transpiration

**4.** infiltration

**Vocab Test on Friday!**

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**What we are working on:**

*Literacy-* We are working on comparing and contrasting text structures. We are looking at the similarities and differences between compare/contrast texts and cause/effect texts. Students will be writing a compare/contrast essay starting this week. **Vocab Quiz on Friday**

*Math-* Students will be working on adding and subtracting fractions with mixed numbers. We are using a number line, drawings, and standard formats. Students are working on reducing (simplifying) fractions as well.

*Science-* Our weather unit is underway! We are finishing up the water cycle and studying weather instruments. We will be tracking and recording Durham weather starting this week.

**Upcoming events/ news:**

Dec. 5-13 – Book Fair!

Dec. 10 – PTA Meeting

Dec. 11 – Early Release – 1:30 PM

Dec. 12- Chorus Winter Concert – 7:00 PM

Dec. 13 – 5th Grade Nutcracker Field Trip

Dec. 21 – Jan. 5 – Winter Break

Merry Christmas!

**Homework:**

**Reading-** 30 minutes each night.

This week, focus on the following strategies:

1. Comparing and contrasting characters, setting, and/or events
2. Finding the main idea and details
3. Using context clues to understanding unknown words or phrases.

