
Room Nineteen Wartik Tribune

Class website: <http://www.mrwartik.com> *Email:* room19@comcast.net

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Plenty Going On

During the second in a string of three consecutive four-day weeks, we got a good deal accomplished. I continue to be impressed by the work ethic of this class and the effort they put forth in all areas.

The Maya dominated our week, helped by Maya Math being the math focus. The first day of work went pretty smoothly, as we learned about the Maya digits (from 0-19) and understood the difference between our base-ten system and the Maya's base-twenty set. However, the introduction of the 20's place made things a bit more complicated on Wednesday. We started with some practice at multiplying by 20, then moved into "translating" Maya numbers into Arabic, and finally began working addition, subtraction and multiplication problems based on two-digit Maya numbers. It came easier to some kids than others, which I reassured them was fine. Yesterday, as we went over the homework, it was clear that some students were thirsty for more – wanting to learn the third place value (the 800's place) - while others were perfectly content to move on to something different!

Also yesterday, we finished *Secrets in Stone*, a book about the Maya that we've been reading for the past few weeks. There was a great deal of interesting information about the Maya, from their love of chocolate to the "ear flares" that the kings and queens wore. *Voyage of the Mimi* continues to infuriate the class, as each of the first-half episodes have been ending on cliffhangers as C.T., Captain Granville and the others are trying to get to the bottom of the mystery surrounding the Lost City (Site U). The second-halves have been interesting, too. In a fun twist, the last "expedition" we watched featured David Stuart, a young archaeologist. Days later, we read more about him in *Secrets in Stone*. It's a fascinating unit.

Keeping Busy

Our writer's workshop time seemed to be very fruitful this week, as I was able to carve out good chunks of time to work one-on-one with students. I'm still working on coming up with a consistent schedule for parent volunteers, as we could definitely use those extra eyes and ears. More to come in this area. We did finally make it into the computer lab for our typing time, and many of the students are making good headway on their October typed pieces.

The short weeks have found the geography and landform segments to have fallen by the wayside a little bit, but we did finally get everyone's papier-mâché landforms made. Yesterday, we brought the watercolors out and everyone painted them. They look incredible! We're going to put them together into a big collection and make it our own "world." I plan to really step up our work on learning all the landforms during the coming week. We did play Landform Jeopardy today.

Connected to the geography piece, I unveiled the process for creating our biweekly maps. Guatemala is the first country we'll be working on, and it's due on Friday (the 16th). The kids were given a sheet of guidelines, and I also showed them a bunch of the links on my website that could help. Please encourage them to get started soon if they haven't already.

Looking Ahead

- TOMORROW – No School (Teacher In-service)
- MONDAY – No School (Columbus Day)
- Book order info is attached. Orders due October 16th.
- Have a great four-day weekend!

My child, _____, and I have read this week's newsletter.

Signature

Date

October 8, 2009

Dear Parents,

Attached you will find the September and October book order flyers from Scholastic. I will often try to send these home with some recommendations or highlights, although you are certainly free to choose any books you want!

ONLINE ORDERING IS AVAILABLE – see the reverse side for more info.

September Arrow highlights:

- *No Talking* – Written by Andrew Clements, whose book, *The Landry News*, we will read this fall. He is a great author. There's also a collection of three of his earlier books on the same page.
- *Percy Jackson* series – this issue has every book in the five book series available – books four (*Battle of the Labyrinth*) and five (*The Last Olympian*) are listed separately, and the first three are available as a set. These are fantastic and one of my favorite new book series in a while.
- *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* trio – Very popular and funny, although not quite high-level reading.
- *Newbery* collection – a set of seven excellent books, all Newbery award winners
- *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* – The final book, now out in paperback.
- *Island of the Blue Dolphins* – An all-time favorite of mine: a story of a girl who survived on a deserted island for 18 years!
- *The Magic Thief* – An engaging book, with a sequel on its way. The author, Sarah Prineas, came to Hubbard Woods last year.
- *Mike Lupica* trio – Three sports book by the New York Post (?) sports columnist. For higher-level readers, who are ready to move on past the Matt Christopher sports books.
- *Chains* – I haven't read this yet, but will be ordering it for myself. Laurie Halse Anderson is a great author and this should be a good book to tie into our African-American unit this winter.

October Arrow highlights:

- *Zoobreak* – Sequel to the popular *Swindle*.
- *Diary of Wimpy Kid: Dog Days* – The new, fourth book in the series.
- *Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* – Written by the author of *Because of Winn-Dixie*.
- *The Big Field* – The newest book by Mike Lupica (see above).
- *Love That Dog* and *Hate That Cat* – Stories told in verse, by Sharon Creech.
- *Harry Potter* collection – All seven books in paperback.
- *The 39 Clues* set – These books are getting a lot of press. Each of the ten proposed books in the series will be written by a different children's author, and apparently readers are involved in the mystery – looking for clues in the real world that apply to the story in the book. This set has the first four books.

Book orders are due NEXT FRIDAY, October 16th. See the back side for ordering information.

TURNING ORDERS DIRECTLY INTO ME:

- Please make sure, with your payment, you return the checklist from the back of the catalog. Your child's name should be on the checklist.
- All checks should be made out to SCHOLASTIC.
- Finally, please check your math carefully, so that I don't have to come back to you and ask for another check! ☺

PLACING ORDERS ONLINE:

Browse all the great monthly Club selections at low prices and order online. Here's how it works:

1. Use the information below to access the Scholastic Book Clubs Web site.
2. Browse the titles with your child, and place your order with your credit card.
3. Your order will come to me, and your credit card payment will go directly to Scholastic's secure server. There's no need to send money to school.
4. After I submit the entire class's order to Scholastic, your order will be delivered to our classroom for your child to take home.

www.scholastic.com/parentordering

Class User Name: **room19books**

Password: **hubbardwoods**

Remember, placing your online credit card order is completely safe and secure.

Ordering online is the most convenient way to use Scholastic Book Clubs. You can order anytime, right up until the online order due date. Right now, they're offering a free book for the classroom for every order a parent places.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. All orders, whether completed online or turned directly into me, are due on Friday, October 16th.

Thanks,

P.S. I will also have a link to the Scholastic website, with our username and password, on our class website, **www.mrwartik.com**