
Room Nineteen Wartik Tribune

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

Volume 10, Issue 4 – September 25, 2009

Is It Friday Already?

There just aren't enough minutes in the day, it seems! As you probably noticed on the "day in the life" slideshow, some of the subjects were doubled up in the timeslots – we just can't pack it all into one day. But we try to make the most of our time.

Math is progressing nicely. We've wrapped up the formal fact family lessons and are just focusing on practicing the facts through 12 and getting them down as smoothly and quickly as possible. We're doing this through the use of flash cards, games and straight practice. Next week, I'll be folding in some other concepts while encouraging the students to keep up their pace with the facts.

In social studies, our study of the Maya is moving along. We're more than a third of the way through the *Voyage of the Mimi* series. We'll soon be learning more about the Maya number and hieroglyph system. (You hopefully saw your child's name glyph hanging last night.) Outside of the video series, we continue to explore more about the culture and history of the civilization. The archeology tie-in for the unit will likely come along in a month or so.

If things go as planned today, we will finish *Winn-Dixie* during SSR. We'll do one of our usual post-reading discussion sessions today, before moving into a more comprehensive wrap-up about the book as a whole. I expect to give the students a week or two of free choice SSR reading before I introduce the next class novel. This will hopefully allow everyone enough time to finish their Sandwich Project book (which they are free to bring in and read during SSR time).

Writing took a bit of a backseat this week. We got in abbreviated sessions on Monday and Tuesday, but that was it (other than the time spent yesterday writing the letters to you). I'm hoping to restructure the shape of the days/week a little bit to allow for more writing time. It just feels like I can't squeeze enough in!

Things I Forgot to Say

As always, I end my Go to School presentation, start chatting with parents, and remember all the things I meant to say! Here are a few things I forgot:

- **COMMUNICATION** – Please come to me with anything – concerns, questions, comments, etc. I'd much rather meet things head-on than let things linger or fester. Email is probably the easiest method to use.
- **WGST** – It is now a special, coming at the end of the day (2:45-3:15) for a period of weeks while our class is in the rotation.
- **MAD MINUTE MATH** – This should not be viewed as in-class competition. I strongly encourage the kids to only be concerned with how much better *they* are doing and not anyone else. I am not comparing them to each other – I only look at their improvement.
- **FACT AUTOMATICITY** – The math sheet that was Wednesday night's homework is a document that will eventually turn into a timed three-minute math exercise. Last year, the first time I used it (October 28), the class average was 43 facts correct in three minutes. By November 20th, it was 111. While fact automaticity isn't the be-all and end-all, I cannot emphasize enough what a difference it made when we got to more complicated and diverse concepts in math. The students' fact automaticity made those units go smoother than they ever had before. It was incredible.

Looking Ahead

- **MONDAY** – No School (Yom Kippur)
- **THURSDAY** – Picture Day!
- The Fall Conference schedule is on the back for your reference.
- Enjoy your weekend!

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

Signature

Date

FALL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH (HALF DAY OF SCHOOL)

| | | | |
|------|-----------|------|---------|
| 1:00 | ROESER | 4:00 | SHELTON |
| 1:30 | MARTIN | 4:30 | ROCAP |
| 2:00 | MCQUILLEN | 5:00 | RUANE |
| 2:30 | KASKEY | 5:30 | LANE |
| 3:00 | BURKE | 6:00 | PASS |
| 3:30 | FELITTO | | |

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH (NO SCHOOL)

| | | | |
|-------|-----------|-------|----------|
| 9:00 | KUCERA | 12:30 | HANSEN |
| 9:30 | FEINERMAN | 1:00 | _____ |
| 10:00 | GERAGHTY | 1:30 | _____ |
| 10:30 | SCULLION | 2:00 | KRAUS |
| 11:00 | HILLS | 2:30 | RANDL_ |
| 11:30 | LEWIS | 3:00 | ISRA_LOV |