

Room 208

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NEWSLETTER



News from Room 208 • Week # 17 • www.bobsprinkle.com

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Greetings!

Happy New Year and Welcome Back! I hope you all had a wonderful and restful holiday.

Here's our week in review:

Writing

This week, we've spent a lot of time looking at the *Idea* writing trait. Students spent time scoring anonymous writing samples and discussing ways to make

their own writing better by using our 4 point rubric.

Students also worked on a writing prompt that asked them to describe what they think a classroom will

look like in the year **2015**. They are doing this to continue a conversation with another podcaster, **David Warlick**, who asked teachers to reflect on the same question. The students were so excited about this prompt that they decided they



go to our website:

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wanted to turn their ideas into a special podcast that Mr. Warlick could hear.

Reading

Students rotated through 4 different centers this week. They worked on: *test-taking strategies* (based on reading nonfiction), *Think Alouds* (using nonfiction articles to talk about their *thinking* and *strategies* while reading), and *Writing a Journal Letter to Me* (about their reading experiences during vacation). In a small *Guided Reading* group with me, students worked on *making predictions* while reading a fictional piece about a girl who discovers that a *Thesaurus* is **not** a *dinosaur*.

Math

4th graders have been learning new algorithms for multi-digit Multiplication: *Partial Product* and *the Lattice Method*. The Partial Product method is an extremely powerful algorithm that reminds the students of what they learned recently with "*Multiplication Wrestling*". The *Lattice Method* is a bit more cumbersome method, but provides a strong routine for some students to carry out multi-digit problems.

3rd graders have been exploring decimals using *base ten blocks*. They also worked a bit on *perimeter* and *area*.



Science

Students have been learning more about *Cacti*. They've written *Cinquain Poems* on what they learned about the cactus we read about in a book called, *Cactus Hotel*. They also made "model" cacti out of pa-

per towels in order to recognize what **characteristics** of the cactus helps it survive in a difficult environment. The students made 3 models of cacti and got them wet with water. The first was made out of only 1 paper towel. The second was made out of 6 paper towels. And the third was made out of 6 paper towels and then wrapped in wax paper. The following day, students examined the models



Cactus Models

in order to understand that cactus do well because they are *dense* and have a *waxy coating* that helps them retain the water.

Have a Great Weekend!

Bob