

# McDonald Newsbits

January 20, 2009

<http://mcdonald3rd.edublogs.org/>

## Note for you...

Our days are quite full at school and we are glad to be back into our normal routine, although, we did enjoy swimming. Please remember to send snow pants daily. It helps keep the kids warm and dry.

## Social Studies

We have started our unit on Michigan. The Five Themes of Geography has been the focus thus. We've used Mr. Help as a guide (M=Movement, R=Region, H=Human Interaction, E=Environment Interaction, L=Location, P=Place). We've discussed the natural resources in Michigan & ways to remember the 5 lakes. H.O.M.E.S.=Lake Huron, Lake Ontario, Lake Michigan, Lake Erie & Lake Superior. We will be moving into Michigan economics next, followed by Native Americans & Early Settlers.

## Inauguration Day

We enjoyed a day of writing our own speeches, generating a list of words that President Obama may use in his Inaugural Address, reading stories about his life and watching the action on TV. We even noticed that he used examples of the Core Democratic Values that we studied.

## Math

My group will be completing Unit 7 (Multiplication) & Mr. Kookier's group is working on decimals. Please continue to work on basic facts for multiplication, addition, and subtraction.

**Volunteer Needed:** Is there anyone that would be interested in coming in one a week to work on basic math flashcards with the kids? If I can get a couple of volunteers we could do it on a rotation basis.

## Language Arts

**Writing:** We have started fictional writing pieces and developing characters. We have surrounded ourselves with literature to support our writing lessons.

**Reading:** I have started reassessing your child's guided reading level. I am thrilled to say that everyone has improved!

**Reading Counts:** Please encourage your child to take one test per week. I would like each child to read a chapter book. They do have time at school so it would be wonderful if they could take their books to and from school.

***Cursive:** We will have finished all of the lowercase letters by the end of this week. The "a" & "o" are problematic for many.*

## Substitute

I had a substitute all day on Monday as my children had medical appointments and will again on Thursday afternoon to view the new science curriculum. I will have the same person for both days.☺ Next Wednesday morning I will be out again but will be back in the afternoon.

## Specials :

### Week of January 19th:

Monday: Art  
Tuesday: Music  
Wednesday: Gym  
Thursday: Art  
Friday: Music

### Week of January 26th:

Monday: Gym  
Tuesday: Art  
Wednesday: Music  
Thursday: Gym  
Friday: Art

## Upcoming Events

February 12<sup>th</sup>: Valentine's Party  
February 13<sup>th</sup>: No School  
February 20<sup>th</sup>: PJ day  
March 2-4<sup>th</sup>: Conferences

