
Literacy Newsletter

Oakland & Owens

January 27th, 2017



Get in Touch!

Please feel free to contact us throughout the year with any questions, concerns, or celebrations you have regarding your child's literacy experience.

Ms. Oakland coakland@waukesha.k12.wi.us

Ms. Owens sowens@waukesha.k12.wi.us

You can also find us on Facebook! Join the group "Oakland & Owens Literacy" for regular classroom updates, literacy newsletters, and more! This is a private group designed as another method to keep families connected to our classroom.

Task Completion Reports

Task completion reports will continue to be sent out on Wednesdays. That way, students have the opportunity to use class time, FLEX, and Connect to meet with us for any direction or clarification on incomplete or missing assignments prior to the weekend. If questions pop up over the weekend, please contact us. Our goal is to work as a team and use this tool to support your child!

As we start each new unit, we typically start fresh with our Task Completion Reports. This week's report focused on the completion of our Summative Argument Essay and Informational Reading Pre-Assessment. These are assessments that were meant to be completed in class with independence from peer or adult support.

What are we learning?

Reading

In our informational unit, reading has been our main focus. We've been working hard to cultivate research skills that will last a lifetime. Our goal is to help students see reading as a process that involves many skills working together to build comprehension. Some of the skills we've focused on in class include paraphrasing sections of text to build strong summaries, identifying "noteworthy" stopping points for collecting research, identifying and using text structures, and analyzing how content, structure, and craft influence a text. We've been using our Thoughtful Blogs on a regular basis to collect helpful strategies and to practice those strategies within shared and individual texts. Students are able to use their Thoughtful Blog as a helpful "toolbox" to refer to during independent work times and many assessments.

Writing

While reading has been our focus for this unit of study, students are regularly writing about their reading. We've practiced strategies for crafting thorough summaries and well organized paragraphs for comparing and contrasting texts. In addition to that, students are preparing for a presentation, and we have centered several lessons around the idea of organizing information with the goal of going public.

Speaking & Listening

Speaking and listening skills play a key role in our current unit. Students have selected a topic that they feel passionately about, and we've spent the last few weeks developing driving questions and digging into research. This unit will culminate in an "unconference" event, which is a loosely structured conference model that involves students selecting several sessions of interest to attend. Students will be sharing a 10 minute presentation, designed to teach others about their topic in an engaging manner. Each student is expected to have a Google Slides presentation and an interactive element as a part of their unconference. At this point, students should have their research completed and a Google Slides framework in place. Next week, much of our class time will be dedicated to preparing for our unconference event, which will take place on Friday, February 3rd. Feel free to join us that day for some exciting learning!

Conventions

Each week, students have a No Red Ink assignment that focuses on several grammar topics. The assignment is provided on Monday, and students have until Friday



evening to submit their work. Recently, we've focused on a variety of commonly confused words, independent and dependent clauses, and conjunctions. These can be tricky topics, so we've paired the online experience of No Red Ink with some face to face mini lessons. This has really helped students build their understanding of grammar, while boosting their confidence to apply these conventions correctly within their writing. Today, students were given a No Red Ink quiz to see how well they are retaining their knowledge of these topics over time.