

FIFTH GRADE NEWS:

Fifth grade has started off the school year reading one of our favorite novels, Because of Mr. Terupt by Rob Buyea. This novel is told from the alternating perspectives of seven different students who are entering fifth grade with a new teacher. This has lent itself to some great discussions about how the point of view of the narrator can change the entire story. We'll wrap up the novel by choosing our favorite chapter and rewriting it from the point of view of the teacher. The group is loving this novel and are having fun identifying with the different characters. We are super excited that once we finish this book, we're going to have the opportunity to Skype with Rob Buyea and ask him questions about his book writing process.

The beginning of the year has also been a great time for setting up routines and preparing for good work habits. We are making sure to write in our assignment notebooks each day (I stamp each ELA entry to ensure that everyone has completed this important task) and we've learned how to check our grades on Infinite Campus and our points on LiveSchool. Ask you child to show off all of their responsibility skills for you!

EIGHTH GRADE NEWS:

Eighth grade has jumped right into SE Hinton's novel, The Outsiders, about rival gangs in 1965 Oklahoma. This book was a favorite of mine in school and seems to be a new favorite of much of this group. It has prompted some great conversations about stereotypes and perceptions. Given the sad ending of this novel, students were given the opportunity to rewrite the ending of the story however they saw fit. We also watched the movie version and evaluated how well it stayed true to the story presented in the novel.

Eighth graders are also making sure to be responsible by writing in their assignment notebooks each day (I stamp each ELA entry to ensure that it's been completed) and we've made sure that we all know how to access their grades and points through Infinite Campus and LiveSchool. We're also busy collecting Martin & Molly Money and brainstorming additional incentives to add to the purchasing menu!