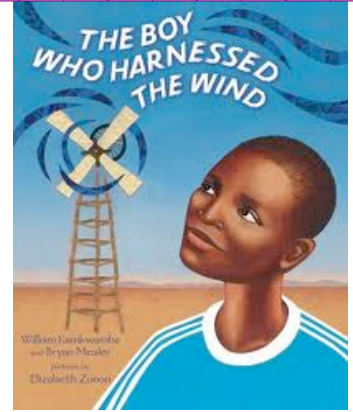


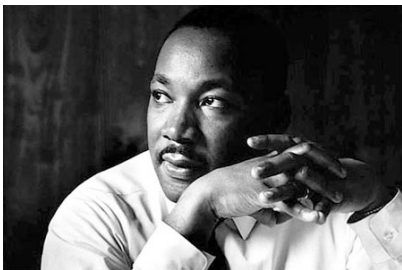
15th Home/School Connection

January 17, 2013



There are 8 topics. Write at least 4 question /bullets.

- THE BOY WHO HARNESSSED THE WIND:** This year, as we get ready for our Martin Luther King Day celebration (on January 25th), our focus at Driscoll is being drawn from Dr. King's words, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?" With that in mind, everyone in Driscoll School is reading the book, *The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind*. It is the story of a boy named William Kamkwamba, who, at the age of 14, figured out how to make a windmill out of found junk in his village. The windmill was able to make electricity and that electricity eventually helped pump water into his village to prevent the devastation of draught. You can read a review of the book and see some of the illustrations if you go to this site: <http://www.brainpickings.org/index.php/2012/01/26/the-boy-who-harnessed-the-wind-zinon/>
- Why do you think this is a story worth telling? What does it have to do with you?
 - What does it have to do with Dr. King and the holiday/day of service in his honor?
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- MARTIN LUTHER KING:** On Tuesday, January 15th, it was the birthday of Martin Luther King. He was born in 1929, so if he was alive today, how old would he be? _____. Not only did we read the story of William Kamkwamba (see above), but we also read an article in the TFK about Dr. King and other people who have inspired others. Who was an inspiration to you? Why? We looked at

quotes by Dr. King and others who believe kindness and paying attention to others is the key to a better society. Do you agree with that? You picked your favorite quotes and then tried your hand at writing your own. Which quotes did you like the best? They are attached so you can discuss them. They are also on our webpage in the Social Studies links section. What 'quote' did you write? Why? We are also starting to write down examples we see of "Being Caught In the Act... of Kindness". Have you begun to notice kind things people do? We also looked at a video about the 'day of service' and a bit of the video "Martin's Big Words" by Doreen Rappaport. I like the voice of the narrator and the idea of words being powerful.

- What do you find important about the videos? http://viewpure.com/IF_qggTFPCw
- What might you do on Monday or in the near future as a day of service or even a few hours of service?
- Perhaps we can think of something as a class. What might be good?
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ANIMAL STORIES: Now that your research packets are almost done, you are beginning to think about how to turn what you know about your animal into a *captivating* story. You heard an animal story by a former 6th grader. Did it help you think about your own story? In what way? You are making a plan for the characters, problems, setting, and plot of your own story. What problems does your animal have that you might put into your own story? Where is the setting of your story? What have you learned about that place that you will include in your story? How does your animal 'adapt' to that environment? Spend time talking about this. Perhaps your mom or dad know something about the setting of the story or they can help you find out more. Remember, the more you know about the place and your animal, the easier it will be to make the story come alive to your readers.

○

MATH: This week you have been working hard on your pie chart of your own typical 24-hour day and the ideal day of a former teammate. You learned that it sometimes helps to use a calculator when turning a fraction into a decimal, but sometimes it is faster in your head. For example, if you know that $6/24 = .25$ or 25 % - that means that $3/24 = .125$ or 12 ½ % because 12.5 is half of 25. That means that $12/24 = .50$ or 50%. We also saw what happens to the totals when we round the decimals. Try to explain that. Along with the pie chart of fractions, decimals and percent, you have been reviewing other math topics in the spiral reviews and we have started to look at the types of questions on the mcas test. This is so you are comfortable and familiar with the format when you do take the test in May.

○ What are you getting better at in math?

○

BIRDS: Your Design a Bird projects are almost done- some of you are done. You had to think about all parts of your bird and how these parts help your animal to survive. Do you think your design a bird would survive? How does it adapt to the habitat it's in?

○

LOSTMAN's RIVER: Describe what is happening in the story. Explain what you would have done if you were in Tyler's shoes.

○

SPECIALS: What's going on in music, art, P.E., C.O.B., Chinese, computer lab, and library? What did you talk about? _____

○

ANYTHING ELSE? River Table Planting, Ben Sander coming in to teach us about 2D to 3D Colonial Houses, Recess in the snow, Morning Meeting, Chorus performance, Band performance (Friday), Teamwork, Organization, the Lockdown Drill: What did you talk about? _____

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Due: Tuesday (No School on Monday).

We made a time to do the HSC on _____ Parent Signature: _____

Parent Comments:

Student Rating: 1-5. Please say why.

QUOTES OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

There are five MLK quotes below. Which one do you like the best? Explain the meaning of it and why you like it. Use the words from the quote to explain your thinking.

“Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?”

“No work is insignificant. All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence.”

“In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”

“Never, never be afraid to do what's right, especially if the well-being of a person or animal is at stake. Society's punishments are small compared to the wounds we inflict on our soul when we look the other way.”

“The time is always right to do the right thing.”

KINDNESS QUOTES ON BACK:

KINDNESS QUOTES:

There are five quotes about kindness below. Again, pick one you most like. Explain what you think the meaning is and what about the quote makes you like it?

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.
Aesop

“Be kind to unkind people - they need it the most.”
- Ashleigh Brilliant

“What wisdom can you find that is greater than kindness?”
~ Jean-Jacques Rousseau quotes

“Never look down on anybody unless you're helping them up.”
– Jesse Jackson

“Indifference and neglect often do much more damage than outright dislike.”
– J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*

Now it's your turn. After having read the Martin Luther King quotes and the kindness quotes, write your own 'quote'. Make sure it is something you think you or people you know would benefit from.
