




Hi 5SH,
I did not see my shadow, so we should be having an early spring.

HOW MUCH SNOW???



18th HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION

Thursday, 2/7/2013

- WEATHER FORECASTS: A lot of snow is in our forecast! As a result of this, I asked you to predict what will happen (not what you wish will happen) tomorrow. Did you guess early dismissal, full day or no school? Why did you pick that? Tradition tells us that if the groundhog sees his shadow on a sunny day, he goes back into his hole and winter continues for an extra 6 weeks. If it's cloudy, the groundhog comes out and spring will come sooner. That always seems rather counter intuitive to me- what do you think? In any case, the groundhog says we will have an early spring this year. Based on the snow coming our way, it is hard to imagine that now. Do you think we will have a lot more snowstorms, or do you think the ground hog is right? What does your mom or dad think?
- COLONIAL RESEARCH: What have you found out that is interesting to you? What are some questions you have about 'your' life as a colonist that you don't know the answer to?
- SECRET AMIGO: Who are you going to focus on? What might you do for your clues, compliments, and tchotchke? Discuss what you learned about the history of Valentine's Day. It's attached. 
- FRACTIONS PART 2- CHAPTER 11: Along with fractions, you are also learning about different measurements and conversions. For example, can you describe a milligram, milliliter, millimeter, or milliseconds? This new chapter is helping you learn how to find common denominators with varying measurements. For example, how many centimeters are in $\frac{1}{2}$ a meter? What if you had to add up $\frac{3}{4}$ of a pound of flour and 7 ounces? You would need to convert pounds to ounces and then add. Try to explain this to a parent with another type of measurement. Something like hours and minutes or inches and feet. Some of this work on fractions and measurements will help us understand the fraction of the property you own on our river table. The average farmer had around 80 – 100 acres- of which only $\frac{1}{5}$ would be used for planting. Around how many acres is that?
- ANIMAL POEMS: You read and ranked five different animal poems. I will put them on the webpage incase you forget them. Describe the poems and which ones you liked the most. Say why. How might you apply poetic writing to your animal stories?

3rd URBAN IMPROV/HOMEWORK TIME: On Tuesday, you had the 3rd Urban Improv class. The topic was on how life isn't always fair, but you can figure out ways to make things better. One of the characters was not doing well in school. She was falling behind and not completing projects. She had a long list of reasons for this... she was distracted on her computer, friends invited her to the movies, her mom sent her to the store and she had to take care of her brother. On the other hand, she had waited until the last minute to get all her work done. Could you relate to her problems? Please discuss at least one way (more is better) you could improve your own systems for when and how you do your homework. Be prepared to share what you discussed.

Anything ELSE? This time we're going to try something new. I want you to look at the list below. Pick at least two items. Next to a check box, write what the item is and a short (one sentence) description of it. Next, write at least one question next to a bullet. Below is a list to choose from:

Animal stories, About the Author, Lostman's River, punctuation dialogue (Quotations), Ebony poem-MCAS reading response, We the People book, River Table plans, Memorizing the Gettysburg address, Issue Agenda topics, what you're reading these days, something else? _____

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SPECIALS: What's going on in Library, Art, Music, P.E., C.O.B., and Chinese (What did you talk about? _____)

Due: MONDAY. We made a time to do the HSC on _____

Parent Signature: _____

Parent Comments:

Student Rating: 1-5. Please say why.

SOME THEORIES AROUND THE HISTORY OF...


Read and leave tracks of your thinking.
Write at least 1 comment or question for
EACH PARAGRAPH.

Valentine's Day



Some say Valentine's Day began around 1740 years ago in Rome, What year is that? _____. They say it began when the Emperor, Claudius II, was involved in many bloody wars. "**Claudius the Cruel**" as he was called, was having a difficult time getting enough soldiers to join his military. He believed if Roman men did not have wives they would be more willing to fight for him, so he banned marriage. Legend has it that **Saint Valentine**, who was a priest in Rome, in the year 269 A.D., continued to perform secret marriage ceremonies because he did not believe in the Emperor's ban. When Claudius discovered this, Valentine was sentenced to death. One story is that while Valentine was in prison, the jailor's daughter visited him. Some say Valentine fell in love with the young woman. Before his death, on the 14th day of February, it is said that he wrote her a letter, which he signed, "From your Valentine" In 496 A.D., Pope Gelasius set aside February 14 to honor St. Valentine.

Another *legend* says that Valentine's Day started in ancient Rome, on February 14th, a holiday to honor Juno, the queen of the Roman Gods and Goddesses. The Romans also knew her as the Goddess of women and marriage. The following day, February 15th, began the Feast of Lupercalia. In those days, the lives of young boys and girls were strictly separate. However, on the eve of the festival of Lupercalia, the names of Roman girls were written on slips of paper and placed into jars. Each young man would draw a girl's name from the jar and would then be partners for the duration of the festival with the girl whom he chose. That sounds a little like the Secret Amigos except it had to be one girl and one boy.



The first commercial Valentine's Day cards in the United States were said to have started because of a woman named Esther Allen Howland. Ms. Howland was born in 1828 in Worcester, Massachusetts. After she graduated from Mount Holyoke College, in 1847, she received her first English valentine. Fascinated with the idea of making similar valentines, she imported the necessary paper lace and floral decorations from England. She began taking orders for valentines, and was surprised to discover a demand for more than she could make by herself. She then recruited friends and came out with her first advertisement in a Worcester paper, The Daily Spy, on Feb. 5, 1850. The assembly line operation that began in her home eventually led to a thriving business grossing \$100,000 annually. She retired in 1881, selling her business to the George C. Whitney Company. They now make candies.

What do you think the real history of Valentine's Day is? Have you or your parents heard other theories? No matter what you think, Valentines Day is often associated with matters of the heart. On the other hand, sometimes the biggest message you see around this day is "Buy! Buy! Buy!" Store aisles are often filled with pink and white candy and pink and white teddy bears shoved in pink and white mugs.

It is all the commercialism around Valentine's Day that inspired the creation of the Secret Amigo Project. Make sure to CAREFULLY READ and REREAD all the steps and directions for the project. Then, begin to plan your clues, compliments, and the tchotchke.

Have fun and shhh....