



Home-School Connection #18

1/28/16

Write at least 4 thought provoking questions

5S- Can you find typos? I made some on purpose to see if you notice.

WALK TWO MOONS/MIDDLE SCHOOL: We are heading into the tail end of the book *Walk Two Moons*. We saw how well the author, Sharon Creech, is weaving the *plot and characters* together. Try to explain how Mr. Birkway, Sergeant Bickle, Mrs. Cadaver and Ms. Partridge were separate but are now linked. The story made us discuss how it felt for Mr. Birkway's students. When he read parts of their "anonymous" journals outloud. Talk about what happened and how students felt. Make sure you do this **using evidence from the text**. Eventually, Mr. Birkway apologized to them. Do you think he should have been sorry? Why do you think he went ahead and read their journals when they were squirming in their seats? What was it that made him change his ways?

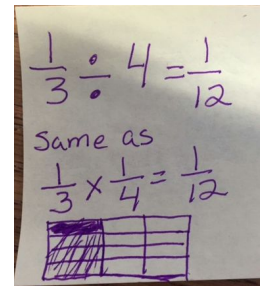
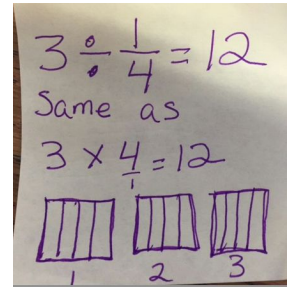
MIDDLE SCHOOL: Sal and her friends are in **middle** school, which is a time when students are growing and changing from children to young adults. these changes can be positive for many students as they make new friends, learn new skills and understand more about the world. Middle school can also be a difficult time for some students who get teased or hurt or left alone. Why do you think this can happen more in middle school? Do you see kids get teased for being different? Talk about that word "middle". Why can it be complicated to be in the middle of something? Do you think the word "complicated" means something is bad? Why or why not? Ask your parents about what they learned or wished they learned in middle school.

WORLD LANGUAGE CHOICES: Speaking of middle school, you went to an 'info session' with the head of the Brookline World Language program and found out that you can choose between Chinese and Spanish next year. In 5S, we had a discussion after the talk about the reasons you might switch to Spanish or stick with Chinese. I asked my son, zachary, who is a freshman at Brookline High, why he chose Chinese and he thinks Chinese is interesting and he kept at it because he thinks he needs a teacher to learn Chinese well. i asked my former student why she chose Spanish in middle school and she said because her grandmother is from Columbia and she wants to talk to her better. No matter what, I am hoping you will not base your decision on which is easier for you since you are capable of learning both- it's more a matter of what will be more interesting, useful or meaningful to you as you head into middle school and beyond.

DEMOCRACY/VOTING: Our class has been doing a lot of voting recently. You voted for what to name our river table, you voted on what to do for community meeting. Next week, you will listen to the arguments your classmates wrote and then we will vote and choose. We are a democracy. Do you like being part of a democracy? What does that word mean to you? What would life be like in 5S if we were not a democracy? Ask your parents about how being part of a democracy has affected their lives.

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FRACTIONS/TEAMMATES: Division of Fractions is not easy.. Try to explain the area model for a whole number by a unit fraction and then a fraction divided by a whole number. Explain how each division problem can also be solved as a multiplication problem. 5S moved into new teams this week and so you were asked to write fraction word problems about a teammate you just sat with. This was a writing and math assignment. You had to interview your teammate and then write interesting statements about them. Some of you had to spruce up your statements. Explain how you did this. After that you thought about word problems to go with the statements. This was not easy- it takes practice.

READING AND WRITING RELATIVE RESEARCH: You spent time this week pulling important facts about your revolutionary relative and putting these ideas into paragraphs about the phases in your relative's life. This takes skill. explain how pulling out information is like an archeological dig. How are you getting better at reading non-fiction? How is it different from reading fiction?

OTHER: Please check what you discussed

- Energy stations- interactions and evidence of the interactions
- Favorite toys growing up
- Community Meeting Slide Show and Skit
- Economics
- What did you focus on for the Monday Muse, TFK, Wednesday and Indy work?
- Specials: Art, music, C.O.B., P.E. Chinese _____

Due MONDAY : We made a time to do this on:_____ Parent Signature & Comments:

***Note to parents,** please make sure your child has read this before sitting down to talk with you.

Was your child prepared?

Student Rating (1-5) Please say why and which topics lead to the most in-depth discussions.

***Note to 5S:** Please make sure you read over the whole HSC and write your 4 questions before sitting down to talk to your family member(s). Were you prepared?