***Mrs. Potter's Homeroom News***

*March 4, 2019*

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* Math: Students continue to learn about multiplication and division, factors, factor pairs, and multiples. We are also looking at patterns in numbers and shapes. In problem solving, students continue to analyze word problems. During our new Math RTI, (1/2 hour on MTThF) students are using assigned units to comparing fractions, find equivalent fractions, and add & subtract fractions using the online Exact Path Program.
* Spelling: A new word list is given to students each Monday with a test on Friday. Students are given a list to bring home as well as a list to use during Word Their Way activities in class. Spelling is incorporated in the Reading grade for report cards.
* Reading: We have just finished chapter 4 in the book, The Tiger Rising. Students are involved in small literature groups as well as whole class instruction as we go through this book. In addition to new vocabulary words, students will work on cause & effect, character traits, setting, problem & solution, summarizing, and reflecting with an opinion or connection to an event in the book.

The AR reading goal for the month of March is 8 points. Your child should be reading 30+ minutes each day at home to help meet this goal. This goal does count toward the overall reading grade.

* Science: We have begun our Energy Project Unit. An engineer from MEC has made and shared a video asking students to evaluate their use of energy at home and school to save money, lessen pollution, and promote renewable energy resources. We will be reporting our findings back to MEC at the end of this unit—as well as at home.
* Social Studies: We are learning about the Midwest Region of the United States. Students are learning the geography, economy, and some history of this area through reading and activities in class.

Students have also chosen a state to research and will be putting that information into a book. Five students from our classroom will be chosen to go to Young Writers’ Day at SMC in the month of May using this book. Some students have asked to write a narrative story for the Young Writers’ Day event. They may in addition to the state book required for Social Studies. The rough drafts for the state books are due March 22, 2019.

* Sam Adams Elementary School is participating in the “Spring into Reading Book Drive” this March. Books donated through this drive will be distributed throughout Berrien and Cass Counties through various agencies. Studies show that exposing children to books at a young age, and having books to read at home, is one of the best ways to develop children’s literacy skills. Boxes will be picked up in Cass County on March 20th.
* Grandparents’ Day at Sam Adams Elementary School is on Friday, March 15, 2019, beginning at 9:00 a.m. for K-3rd grades and at 9:30 a.m. for 4th-6th grades. Please plan to attend.