



November 12, 2019

Dear Parents,

Even though we set the clocks back and gained an hour- time is definitely moving at a quick pace! Here we are already into the third week of November! Grades close this week and soon thereafter we will be celebrating Thanksgiving. Here at school, we have finished reading the book **FRINDLE** by Andrew Clements. We have celebrated by inventing our own words like the main character in the book named Nick Allen. Ask your child about their **SNIGLET** poster.



Attached to this packet are your child's **FRINDLE** *comprehension checks* that were completed in class. The children were allowed and encouraged to look back in each chapter of the book to answer each question. Also, there is your child's first attempt to summarize two chapters(8+9) into one summary. I gave them a word bank of key details and allowed them to work along with a partner to craft their summary statement. The grading used was on a scale from 1 to 3. "One" is the beginning stage, "Two" is developing and "Three" is secure. I chose this scale because summarizing is a skill that we will revisit again and again this year. Depending on the difficulty of the text, your child may move back and forth along this scale.

I have included book order forms. In the past, some parents have ordered books but have asked me to place them in the main office for pick up rather than hand them out directly to students so they could be given as a surprise holiday gift. If you wish to order for gift giving, please send me an email so I will know NOT to hand out the book directly to your child.

Prior to Thanksgiving we will be continuing our **WORD NERD** entries. Thank you to all parents for doing your "homework". It was obvious that the children were very pleased to receive your feedback in their word nerd notebooks. We will also be focusing on *characterization/character traits*. We will discover "close reading" techniques and learn *how to annotate* by "making a mess" in the margin.

The next novel we will be reading is **ESPERANZA RISING** by Pam Muñoz Ryan. Students will trace the journey of Esperanza, a young girl born into a comfortable life of privilege in Mexico in the 1930s who is forced to flee to California and must rise above her difficult circumstances. Some of the inquiry questions that will arise are- *What are human rights? Why do we have them and how are they protected?* Students will construct knowledge about these questions while simultaneously building their ability to read challenging text closely. Students will apply their new learning about human rights through a case study of how a fictional character (Esperanza) responds to human rights challenges in the novel.

Wishing you a very joyful Thanksgiving!

Mrs. Cichocki