



FAMILY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 19, 2010

¡Hola a todos! We have had a short, but busy and exciting week in third grade. Thank you to those who were able to help with our Fiesta de Amistad on Tuesday – we all had a great time! Thank you also to our chaperones on yesterday's field trip! Ask your child about his/her favorite part of the Ordway and the Minneapolis Institute of Art experiences. What did students discover in the museum, and what are they curious about? Our Estrella de la Semana this week was James Miller.

Inquiry in the Classroom

On the topic of asking questions...ISLA had the great fortune of bringing in inquiry expert, John Barell last Friday. He was able to teach a lesson in each grade, focused around the current IB unit. In third grade, students practiced being archaeologists by examining an ancient artifact and practiced **observing, thinking** and **questioning**. I was impressed by the things students observed, the connections they made to other knowledge, and the higher level questions students began asking, through this process. We have already begun trying more inquiry in our class and continue practicing the skills of observing, thinking and questioning. Some key phrases we are using: **"I wonder..."** and **"I'm curious about..."** Try practicing these at home, to continue encouraging students' curiosity!

Ancient Civilizations

Students continue to show great enthusiasm and curiosity in our study of ancient civilizations. We will have a Spanish vocabulary test for the unit next Thursday, so students should work on studying those words. As a final project in this unit, students will research, re-create and put together a presentation around an ancient invention that is still used today. They will research where it was invented, how, what it was/is used for, how it has changed over time and other questions. Students will then present this work and their re-creation at our **Invention Fair on Wednesday, March 3**. Families will be welcome to attend the Fair that afternoon. More details to come!

Math

This week in math we have been examining degrees of angles. Practice measuring angles at home with your child and discuss right angles, obtuse angles, and acute angles. We will have our unit 6 math test during the week of March 1. ***Math journal pages to complete: 141-145.**

Upcoming Events

February 23: PTO Meeting – 7:00pm

February 26: PTO Family Night 6:00-8:30pm

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