

TUESDAY NOTE

October 11, 2016

Dear Parents,

Good to see you last week at conferences. Thanks for your support at home which is key for student success.

We had a memorable field trip day. Thanks be to God for sunny skies and favorable October temperatures. This week, we are wrapping up a collaborative project within our 5/6 nit. This is one of many photos taken on our trip (special thanks to Miss Washburn). This is outside the John Hancock Building- beside all those smiling faces- check out the Cubs "players" in the background!



A few **NEW** things this week in Reading. First, we will begin a mini-unit of study in Close Reading. The term "close reading" refers to teaching kids how to use a different skill set to read nonfiction texts (like Science and Social Studies textbooks). Each student has a close reading folder which will serve as the textbook for this week and next. It is very important that students realize that varied kinds of reading utilizes different skills. Along that same topic, all students in grades 2-8 will sign in and have an account with an online reading opportunity called Newsela. It's a terrific way for kids to read news articles on current interesting topics that are leveled for their individual reading abilities (see the Lexile scores on the MAP tests) and practice those close reading skills.



Secondly, we will start the first round of Literature Circles. Students will work in small groups and select a novel to read for the next five weeks. Each group member has a task to complete, in addition to the reading, and this should be accomplished at home and brought to school each Friday.

Please check the class website for other newsy notes about curricular topics.

Together in Christ,

Mrs. Massmann

rmassmann@graceriverforest.org