

Classroom Notes
December 2020

December 6, 2020

Dear Families,

I hope you found the plans I provided helpful in educating your children this week. If anyone needs anything for the coming week, please let me know.

With one more week of schooling and a few for holiday break, I am hoping everyone dives into a bit more literature for your families. There are so many lovely books to choose from, but with the current trend toward books that are video-game-based, it is sometimes hard to find the true gems. I would like to share some that we have loved.

Absolutely Lucy by Ilene Cooper (a series of 8 books for the 6-9-year-olds) These are charming and can be enjoyed at least twice: once as you read them to your young ones and then again when they are becoming stronger readers (2nd grade reading level.) When you find a good series, the characters become "friends" to your children - such a fun way to become a committed reader.

Calpurnia Tate: Girl Vet by Jacqueline Kelly (a series of 5 books for the 6-9-year-olds) I recently discovered these after reading "The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate" with the Jr. High students. Even though Calpurnia is a girl, there is plenty of fun for the boys as well, since she has a bunch of brothers. These books share some scientific knowledge and passion mixed with great writing. Quite a treasure!

The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DeCamillo, who is an amazing writer.

Any picture books by Emily Arnold McCully (Mirette on the High Wire, The Orphan Singer.) Ms. McCully often writes historical fiction picture books, which are great for any elementary-age child.

A Story of the World (4 volumes) by Susan Bauer. We read these some to the class, but it would be great if every family shared these with your children. They are well-written and give an overall view or the history of the human family.

Reading books aloud (even when your children are strong readers) that enrich your child's life is such an easy way to educate them. I promise you will have more intelligent questions from your children which will lead them to want to know more. Enjoy this time!

Sincerely,

Mona