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**Monday, October 22,2012**

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| **Skills and Strategies: Main Idea**  The physical environment of a classroom is extremely important because it can influence the way teachers and students feel, think, and behave. If a student feels pressured, under stress, unhappy, or unsafe, it would be impossible for her or him to learn the lessons planned by the educator. Likewise, if a teacher feels unhappy or disorganized because of the classroom's lack of order or detail, the ability for her to teach is greatly diminished. The environment of a classroom serves four basic functions: security, social contact, pleasure, and growth. For real learning and teaching to take place, all four of those needs must be met by the class space.  **The main idea of this paragraph is:**   1. Physical environment of the classroom is not that important 2. Physical environment is important 3. Physical environment in no way impacts how teachers and students feel 4. Physical environment plays a huge role in the class because it can influence how teachers and student are feeling   **What is one supporting detail?** | **Vocabulary**  As Caitlyn entered her bug-loving brother’s room, she armed herself against whatever kind of creepy-crawly creatures **lurked** in there.  What does the word **lurk** mean in the sentence above?   1. Move loudly 2. Cry 3. Creep secretly 4. Run   What is one clue that helped you determine the meaning? |
| **Grammar**  **Underline the nouns in the sentences below. Write a “P” above the proper nouns. Write a “C” above the common nouns.**  1) Mrs. Chlystek drove Miss Bluemle to school today.  2) The students went on a field trip to the Pittsburgh Zoo.  3) Jack and Jill went to Century III Mall to buy clothes for their vacation to North Carolina.  4) Mrs. Chekan took her children to see a movie at Loews Theater. | **Conventions**  **1** Can you imagine digging in your yard and finding one of the most significant archaeological discoveries of the twentieth century? **2** A group of farmers was digging a well in 1974 when they discovered chambers filled with life-sized pottery soldiers made for Emperor Qin Shi Huang almost 2,200 years earlier. **3** These figures were made of clay and fired in kilns in nearby villages. **4** Kilns heated to 900 degrees Celsius were used to “fire” or bake the figures to maintain an even thickness and to harden the city. **5** The statues legs were molded solid. **6** The upper parts of the bodies were made using one-inch thick coiled ropes that were then smoothed with paddles. **7** While dozens of heads might have been made from the same mold, each face was carved to give individual details to the eyes, hair, mustaches, and ears.  **Where would this sentence best fit the passage??**  **These pottery soldiers are known as the Terra Cotta Warriors**   1. After sentence 2 2. After sentence 1 3. After sentence 5 4. After sentence 4   **Explain:** |

**Tuesday, October 23, 2012**

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| **Skills and Strategies: Inferences**  It’s like a small zoo in there.  There are feathers and dander flying everywhere.  The noises and sights of water going through the pipes, birds chatting, tortoises, fish, and people talking, the little waterfalls, the ponds with the most beautiful koi, and the hamster wheels squealing surround you.  If you are quiet, you can occasionally hear the song of a bell and canary doing their thing.  **Fact or Inference**  **­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ You can hear the birds sing if you are quiet  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ They are visiting the zoo  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ There are many animals all in one place | **Vocabulary**  During their first weekend at the university, Megan and all of her new friends **gallivanted** around the campus and neighboring town looking for fun things to do.  What does the word **gallivanted(gallivant)** mean in the sentence above?   1. Travel for fun 2. Creep around 3. Moved slowly 4. Fly   What is one clue that helped you determine the meaning? |
| **Grammar**  **Replace the proper nouns with pronouns. Write the correct pronoun above each proper noun.**  1) Mr. Griffin and Ms. Brown checked papers in their classroom.  2) Bill, Brian, and Bob went to the park to meet Beth.  3) Aladin really enjoys spending time with Jasmine. | **Conventions**  **1** Can you imagine digging in your yard and finding one of the most significant archaeological discoveries of the twentieth century? **2** A group of farmers was digging a well in 1974 when they discovered chambers filled with life-sized pottery soldiers made for Emperor Qin Shi Huang almost 2,200 years earlier. **3** These figures were made of clay and fired in kilns in nearby villages. **4** Kilns heated to 900 degrees Celsius were used to “fire” or bake the figures to maintain an even thickness and to harden the city. **5** The statues legs were molded solid. **6** The upper parts of the bodies were made using one-inch thick coiled ropes that were then smoothed with paddles. **7** While dozens of heads might have been made from the same mold, each face was carved to give individual details to the eyes, hair, mustaches, and ears.  **Which explains the reason for quotation marks around the word fire** **in sentence 4?**   1. The word is part of a title 2. The word is used in a new way 3. The word is part of a dialogue 4. The word is a foreign word |

**Wednesday, October 24, 2012**

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| **Skills and Strategies: Sequence**  **Using your sequencing skills place these 5 sentences in order from first to last.**  \_\_\_\_\_\_I support P.E. in middle schools.  \_\_\_\_\_\_In conclusion, Physical Education is an eagerly anticipated class in middle schools.  \_\_\_\_\_\_First, It gives students a way to use up extra energy so they can settle down to reading and math.  \_\_\_\_\_\_Second, It lets students show a variety of skills and talents.  \_\_\_\_\_\_Lastly, It promotes healthy behavior. | **Vocabulary**  You can tell by Tara’s relaxed and inviting **mien** that she is easy to talk to.  What does the word **mien** mean in the paragraph above?   1. Facial expression 2. Growl 3. Manner 4. Voice   Underline one clue that helped you determine the meaning? |
| **Grammar**  **Underline the verb in each sentence. Write down what tense (present, past, future) the verb is on the provided line.**  1) Sally talked to the new baby. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  2) Tom yelled at the dog that was eating his pie. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  3) “I will be late,” said Ben. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  4) Mr. Jones teaches the sixth graders at Propel. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  5) They screamed when the Big Dipper suddenly dropped back to Earth  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | **Conventions**  **1** Can you imagine digging in your yard and finding one of the most significant archaeological discoveries of the twentieth century? **2** A group of farmers was digging a well in 1974 when they discovered chambers filled with life-sized pottery soldiers made for Emperor Qin Shi Huang almost 2,200 years earlier. **3** These figures were made of clay and fired in kilns in nearby villages. **4** Kilns heated to 900 degrees Celsius were used to “fire” or bake the figures to maintain an even thickness and to harden the city. **5** The statues legs were molded solid. **6** The upper parts of the bodies were made using one-inch thick coiled ropes that were then smoothed with paddles. **7** While dozens of heads might have been made from the same mold, each face was carved to give individual details to the eyes, hair, mustaches, and ears.    **Which sentence shows the correct apostrophe placement in sentence 5??**   1. The statue’s legs were molded solid. 2. The statues’ legs were molded solid. 3. The statues leg’s were molded solid. 4. The statues legs’ were molded solid.   **Explain why the apostrophe best fits there.** |

**Thursday, October 25, 2012**

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| **Skills and Strategies: Drawing Conclusions**  The Louisiana Purchase proved to be one of the shrewdest business pacts in the entire history of the United States. The purchase doubled in the area of the country and provided territory from which fourteen new states were created either wholly or in part. It also gave us control over the mouth of the Mississippi River and opened up the way to foreign trade. Prior to the purchase, the waterway had been blocked by the Spanish, probably with the  approval of Napoleon. The land that was bought was rich in timber, minerals, and natural resources of many kinds. Finally, the cost of the transaction was unbelievably low; the total of $15 million amounted to about four cents an acre.  **Which of the following best states the main idea?**  a. The Louisiana Purchase was a very good business deal for the U.S.  b. The land bought by the Louisiana Purchase was rich in minerals.  c. The land bought by the Louisiana Purchase was very cheap.  d. Most Americans were very pleased with the purchase.  **Do you believe that the purchase of the Louisiana territory was a good idea? Underline** 2 **details to support your answer** | **Vocabulary**  “I turned my face away to conceal a smile I could not suppress: there was something **ludicrous** as well as painful in the little Parisienne’s devotion to matters of dress.”  What does the word **ludicrous** mean in the paragraph above?   1. Laughable 2. Stupid 3. Joke 4. Serious   Underline one clue that helped you determine the meaning? |
| **Grammar**  **Complete the sentences below by writing the correct form of the adjectives in parentheses.**  1) Mike must be the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (busy) boy in the whole school.  2) This box is much \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (heavy) than that one.  3) You always seem to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (lucky) than I am.  4) This kitten is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (noisy) of the whole litter. | **Conventions**  **1** Can you imagine digging in your yard and finding one of the most significant archaeological discoveries of the twentieth century? **2** A group of farmers was digging a well in 1974 when they discovered chambers filled with life-sized pottery soldiers made for Emperor Qin Shi Huang almost 2,200 years earlier. **3** These figures were made of clay and fired in kilns in nearby villages. **4** Kilns heated to 900 degrees Celsius were used to “fire” or bake the figures to maintain an even thickness and to harden the city. **5** The statues legs were molded solid. **6** The upper parts of the bodies were made using one-inch thick coiled ropes that were then smoothed with paddles. **7** While dozens of heads might have been made from the same mold, each face was carved to give individual details to the eyes, hair, mustaches, and ears.    **Which word in sentence 7 in spelled wrong?**   1. Dozens 2. Mold 3. Individual 4. Mustaches   **Spell it correctly here… \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |

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| **Skills and Strategies: Main Idea & Details**  On Wednesday, the Senate passed a $1.35 trillion tax cut package. This is the biggest reduction in twenty years. The measure lowers all income tax rates. The package now goes to a House-Senate conference committee. In the committee, Congressional and White House negotiators will quarrel over the size and timing of the tax cuts. In the final tally, 62 senators voted for the bill and 38 voiced against it. All 50 Republicans and 12 Democrats joined in support of the package.  **What is this news story mainly about?**   1. Negotiators will argue about the timing. 2. Taxes are way too high in America. 3. The Senate passed a large tax cut. 4. The vote on the tax cut was 62 to 38.   **Underline two supporting detail in the passage.** | **Vocabulary**  Asian grass carp, strong swimming fish with an urge to travel, grow up to 3 1/2 feet long and 70 pounds in Texas lakes and rivers. They are known for a voracious vegetarian appetite, eating up to three times their body weight in water plants in one day.   **What is the meaning of the word voracious?**   1. diet 2. fatty 3. small 4. large   **Underline one clue you used to help identify the words meaning.** |
| **Skills and Strategies: Making Inferences**  Jill couldn't believe it was only June 15th. All of her friends from school had taken summer jobs, she didn't have brothers or sisters, and after a couple of weeks, television made a very poor companion. She had already finished three books and started a fourth, a great mystery that only made her more desperate to have something to do. Jill decided it was time for her to find something to do.  **Which of the following can you infer from the passage above?**   1. Jill hates the summers. 2. Jill will be bored for the rest of the summer. 3. Jill will look for a job. 4. Jill is a very lazy person.   **Explain:** | **Editing**  **Which of the following sentences is punctuated correctly?**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | a) | When the last bell for school rang, the students' ran out the door, and into the streets to meet the summer | | b) | When the last bell for school rang, the students ran out the door and into the streets to meet the summer. | | c) | When the last bell for school rang the students ran out the door and into the streets to meet the summer | | d) | When the last bell for school rang the students' ran out the door, and into the streets to meet the summer. |   **Explain:** |