



# JK



April 16, 2012

## News & Views



### Calendar:

- ELA State Test  
Tuesday – Thursday  
4/17/12 – 4/19/12
- Math State Test  
Wednesday – Friday  
4/25/12 – 4/27/12
- 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Spring Vacation:  
4/28/12 -5/6/12  
No School!

### Boot Camp Bonanza!

By Stephanie, Xavier, and Laila

To help us better prepare for the big state tests that start this week, our class came into school last week for special work that we called “Boot Camp.” Every morning, we began the day by working for 90 minutes without any breaks. We practiced reading, listening, and writing. We called it the “ELA Block.” One day we read two similar articles and then answered questions about them. We also had to write an essay about the two passages. All this work made it easier to answer questions about things we read or listened to.

During boot camp, we also had time for clubs. Many students signed up for cooking club with teachers like Kim, Martha, and Anna. The cooking club made blueberry muffins and shared them with all the students at boot camp. One of the best recipes was “Dessert Pizza.” Chefs put English muffins in the oven until they were toasted. They covered them with Nutella, bananas, and coconut. It was delicious!

## We Are “Attracted” to Magnets

During Boot Camp, we started to study magnets. On the first day, we took magnets and walked around the room and school to see what was magnetic and what wasn't. We noticed that magnets would stick to many metal things, but not all metal things. That made us wonder why magnets don't stick to everything metal.

The next day, we were given a bag of different objects, like nails, rocks, pieces of wood and yarn. We had stronger magnets to find out what things would be attracted to the magnets. Then, we noticed that when something was attached to a magnet, it often acted like a magnet too. For example, when the metal nail was touching the magnet, we could “pick other things up with the nail, like a paper clip,” said Xavier.

We will continue working with magnets to find out how they work, why they work, and how something becomes a magnet. Stay tuned!

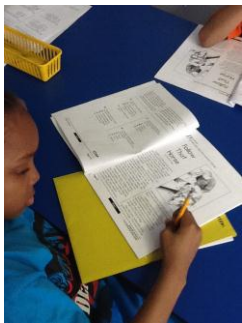


## Polygons

Our current math unit is focusing on polygons (two dimensional shapes) to help us with our understanding of geometry. We have been reviewing perimeter and area, and deepening what we know by using irregular shapes. One great strategy we've discovered is to take an irregular shape and split it up into shapes we recognize. Then, all we have to do is use what we already know to get our answers.

During this study, we have also made some important connections between our math work and our literacy work. Many of the shapes we are studying have names that indicate how many sides they have. The polygon names have prefixes like, penta- octa, dodeca- which help us know about the sides of the shape. Did you know that there is an Olympic event called the “Heptathlon?” Since we know that hepta- means seven, we can figure out that the event probably has seven parts.

We are now moving into studying angles. Keep asking us about how we are using things we know to learn new and more challenging things in math!



## Test Day Tips

Over the next few weeks during the ELA and Math tests, it's important for students to come to **school** prepared to do their best. Here's how you can help them at home:

- 1) Make sure they get to **bed** a little **earlier** and get a good night's sleep.
- 2) Support them by serving them **healthy dinners** and **breakfasts**.
- 3) Guarantee that they are at school **on-time**.
- 4) Wish them luck and **encourage** them to do their best to show the test makers all they have learned.