

ROOM 202 & 204 NEWS



Reminders

- *A healthy snack is provided daily in school.
- *Strings is every Thursday from 12:00-12:40pm (Band: Friday)
- *Students should read nightly for at least 15 minutes.
- *Students should practice their math facts at home daily, focusing on ones they struggle with.

Important Dates

- * 7- half day (noon dismissal)
- * 9 - No School for Students
- * 12 - No School - Columbus Day
- * 21 - half day (noon dismissal)
- * Q1 ends on November 9th

Classroom Wishlist

- * Gently used books (reading levels grades 2 - 6 are appreciated)
- * Tissues/Kleenex
- * Ticonderoga Pencils
- * Hand Sanitizer & lotion
- * Clorox Wipes



Dear Room 202 & 204 Families,

Welcome back to school! We are so happy to have your child in our fourth grade classrooms this year. Each month we will keep you informed about subject specific curriculum, important dates, and share photos from our classroom happenings with you in our newsletters. Open and regular communication is our goal.

So many exciting events have already taken place in these past few weeks, such as the Channel 5 News "Eye-opener" segment pictured above. Students have also had the chance to harvest carrots, they planted last spring in the 3rd grade with the Groundworks program. An exciting new recess program Playworks also started this September and several of our students were selected as "Junior Coaches" to help with the younger grades. We are thrilled!

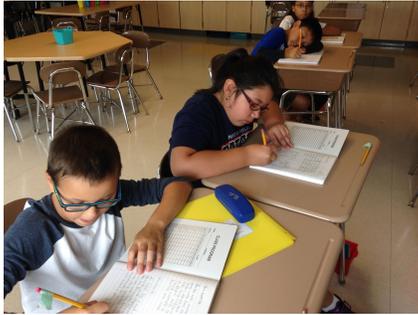
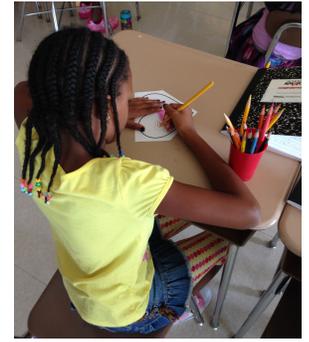
Throughout September, students have focused on learning fourth grade expectations and classroom routines. We emphasize the importance of these routines, so that students are best prepared to have a positive and successful year. As we enter October, "launch units," have come to a close and we delve deeper into the fourth grade curriculum. The pace and rigor will both start to gradually increase. All of the routines and building of strong habits will allow us to jump right in. Please continue to support your child with their homework each night. It is especially important that they are reading and practicing their math facts daily.

We thank you for a great start to the year and ongoing support. We look forward to a fabulous year!

★ Ms. Correnti & Ms. Bahn

CURRICULUM UPDATES

READING ~ We have successfully launched Readers Workshop. Students have built their independent reading stamina and are choosing "just right" books to apply skills taught in the focus lessons. We are in the midst of their first formal unit of study: Narrative Fiction. Skills covered include making predictions and meaningful connections, making inferences, deeply understanding characters based on their actions, words, etc., and using evidence to support our thinking in discussion and in writing.



MATH ~ We have started off the year with review of topics such as place value and rounding. The students are doing a great job being problem solvers and using new strategies to solve word problems. They know that every time they solve a word problem, they need to read the problem closely and set up a Know/Need To Know chart before going ahead and solving the problem. The students are also writing their answers in complete sentences that answer the question they are solving for. We will begin learning about arrays for multiplication as well as which numbers are prime and composite.

WRITING ~ During the first two weeks of school we spent ample time studying authors, particularly, how they get their ideas. During this time students also worked on their own idea generation based on special places, people, memories and even possessions. Students have chosen one memory to use as their first story idea to writing their first personal narrative. Personal narratives are true stories about our own lives. The focus skills for this unit are writing strong leads that hook in the reader and endings that pull together our story, using alternative words for "said" in dialogue, using commas and punctuation correctly in dialogue, and writing five or more connected paragraphs. We are in the middle of our stories and look forward to inviting you into the classroom to share them with you at the end of the month.



SCIENCE ~ In Science we learned about the Scientific Method. The students identified what is involved to follow each step and tried using the steps during an apple experiment. This month we will begin learning about the weather. I will do a demonstration with the students showing them the water cycle and how clouds form. We will learn about the different types of clouds and observe them outside. I am looking forward to doing more hands on activities and experiments this year with our wonderful scientists!

SOCIAL STUDIES ~ During Social Studies we have been learning about maps and directions. The students have been practicing how to follow directions and created their own maps. We will soon begin learning about latitude and longitude and finding locations they know around the world using their new knowledge.

HOMEWORK~ Homework completion is very important to students' growth in fourth grade. In ELA students receive a weekly packet with a fluency passage. This passage is about a Science or S.S. topic. It is checked daily and collected on Fridays. Students are also encouraged to read a choice book every night. In Math, helping students practice their basic facts is extremely beneficial! Please check students' agenda sheets nightly to sign off on ten minutes of fact practice. Math Logs are checked every Monday and should be signed daily. Please make sure your child is completing every assignment.

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