

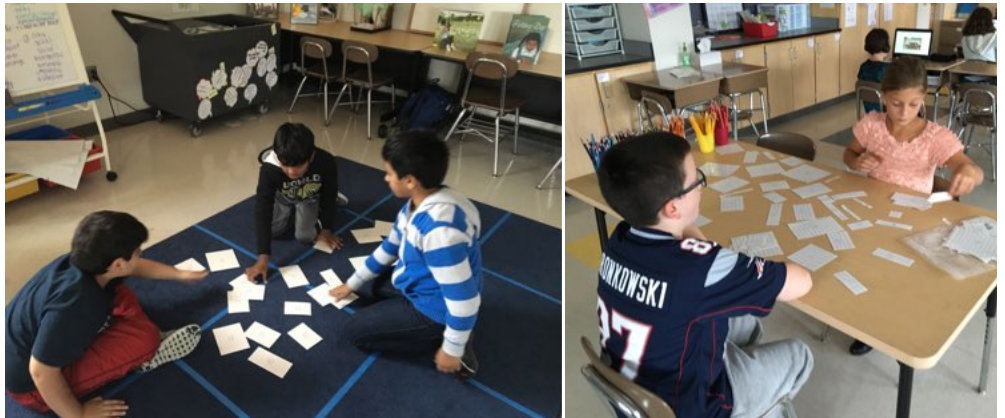
ROOM 202 NEWS

OCTOBER 2016



Reminders

- *A healthy snack is provided daily in school.
- *Strings is every Thursday from 12:00-12:45pm (Band: Friday)
- *Students should:
 - ✦ read nightly for 20+ minutes.
 - ✦ practice their math facts at home regularly.



Dear Room 202 Families,

Welcome back to school! I am so happy to have your child in my classroom this year. Each month I 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 my goal.

So many exciting events have already taken place in these past few weeks. Students have met their new pre-k reading buddies who we will work with roughly bi-weekly throughout the school year. Also, students have begun their Strings and Band lessons! They are very enthusiastic about each new part of fourth grade. Likewise, we are familiarizing ourselves with our new Chromebooks. Finally, Playworks also has restarts this month. In fact, two of our students, Arjun and Coco, 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 are now delving deeper into the fourth grade curriculum. The pace and rigor will both start to 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 helpful to check yellow homework folders regularly for important flyers and graded homework sent home.

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

★ Mrs. Bauer & Ms. Campbell

Important Dates

- * 5- half day (noon dismissal)
- * 10 - No School - Columbus Day
- * 19 - half day (noon dismissal)
- * Q1 ends on November 4th

Classroom Wishlist

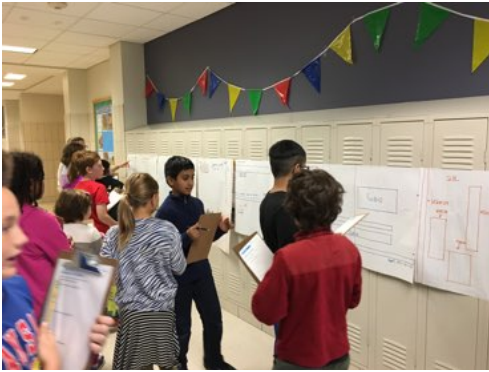
- * Gently used books (reading levels grades 1 - 6 are appreciated)
- * Tissues/Kleenex (cold season has arrive and we go through tissues quickly!)
- * Ticonderoga Pencils
- * Hand Sanitizer & lotion
- * Clorox Wipes

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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 to deeply understand the main characters based on their actions, words, etc. Finally, we are focused on using evidence to support our thinking in both discussion and in writing.



MATH ~ We have started off the year with review of topics such as place value and rounding. Students have excelled with expanded form. Rounding has been more challenging, so we continue to review this skill. The next focus was to strengthen addition and subtraction skills. Students should have multiple strategies for both operations, but we have emphasized the standard U.S. algorithm in this unit. We just learned about using arrays for multiplication, as well as factors, prime, and composite numbers. Next up, students will work more with factors, multiples, and word problem solving strategies. Please help students to practice their subtraction, addition and multiplication facts at home regularly.

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, and summer memories. Students have chosen one idea to use as the story topic to writing their first personal narrative. Personal narratives are true stories about our own lives. This month we will work through the full writing process to bring their plans to life. 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 just starting the drafts and look forward to inviting you into the classroom.



SCIENCE ~ In Science, we learned about the Scientific Method. The students identified what is involved to follow each step and we applied these steps during an apple experiment. We have now started our weather unit. Students have learned about the different types of clouds and completed some observations. Last week and this week we have had health class. Students are learning about ways to deal with stress and make smart life choices. We will resume with weather next week.

SOCIAL STUDIES ~ During S.S. we have been learning about maps and directions. The students have been practicing how to follow directions and created their own maps. Next up, we will 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. For ELA students are required to read a minute of 20 minutes a night and then complete a short "quickwrite" about their reading on their weekly HW agenda page. In Math, students will have a short review skill page Monday-Thursday. Likewise, helping students practice their basic facts is very beneficial. Please sign off on homework and help establish a routine at home.