

# OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

## ROOMS 202 & 204

### Welcome Back to School!

Dear Grade Four Families,

We are excited and honored to be your student's fourth grade teachers this school year! We will write a newsletter like this each month to keep you informed about what is happening in the classroom. It is important to us to keep open communication with you throughout the year.

Over the past few weeks, our students have spent a significant amount of time learning about the fourth grade expectations and classroom routines. This has been an important time for students to learn and follow what is expected of them this year to achieve the most success!

Thank you for your support and cooperation! We look forward to a fabulous year with your fourth graders!

Best,

Ms. Bahn & Ms. Correnti



### Reminders for Students & Families

- Healthy snack is provided in school daily
- Half day dismissal is at 12:00 p.m.
- Strings is every Thursday and band is every Friday
- Scholastic book orders should be in by the end of next week
- Please make sure students pack agendas and homework folders each day for school
- We are requesting any book or magazine donations for the classroom for grades 2 through 6
- To contact us, please e-mail us at [abahn@k12.somerville.ma.us](mailto:abahn@k12.somerville.ma.us) and [icorrenti@k12.somerville.us](mailto:icorrenti@k12.somerville.us)

Thank you!



### Important Dates in October:

- 10-** No School for Students
- 13-** No School – Columbus Day
- 29-** Half Day, 12 p.m. Dismissal

*Q1 ends on November 7th*



# Subject Updates:



## 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 have also just started learning about arrays for multiplication as well as which numbers are prime and composite.



## Science

In Science we are learning about the weather. I did a demonstration with the students showing them the water cycle and how clouds form. They have been doing a fabulous job paying attention to clouds when they are outside at recess and sharing their observations. I am looking forward to doing more hands on activities and experiments this year with them!



## 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 are now beginning to learn about latitude and longitude and they are enthusiastic about finding locations they know around the world using their new knowledge.



## 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 lesson. 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, and using evidence to support ones thinking.



## Writing

During the first two weeks of school we spent ample time studying authors, particularly, how they get their ideas. During this time students were working 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. We are currently writing our first personal narratives. 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 in a few weeks.



## Homework

Homework completion is very important to students' growth in fourth grade. Please make sure your student is completing every homework assignment. Helping students practice their math facts is always beneficial! Please check students' agenda books nightly to sign off on ten minute fact practice. Math Logs are checked every Friday and should be signed.

In addition to twenty minutes of nightly reading homework in ELA, students should be completing a "Try-It" in their writer's notebook. The assignments vary asking students to apply new skills learned such as writing a new lead, or jotting down story ideas. The "Try-It" prompt should be a short writing activity taking from 5-10 minutes in total. This homework helps students develop their writing skills and fluency. Please be sure to sign off on their homework.