

Fourth Grade Newsletter

November 4, 2009
Volume 4, Issue 3

Goshen Elementary School
8701 Warfield Road Gaithersburg, MD 20882
Phone: (301) 840-8165 * Fax (301) 840-8167

Upcoming Events

◆ November 11th -
Principal's Coffee at
9:30

◆ November 11th -
Report Cards
Distributed



◆ November 11th -
Parent/Teacher
Conferences
(Early Dismissal)

◆ November 12th -
Parent/Teacher
Conferences
(Early Dismissal)

◆ November 13th -
Quarter 1 Awards
Assembly at 9:30

◆ November 18th -
Dine Out with the PTA
at Ay Jalisco

◆ November 25th -
Early Dismissal

◆ November 26th -
Thanksgiving
(No School)



◆ November 27th -
Thanksgiving
Holiday (No School)

Announcements and Reminders



- Look for your child's white Goshen Grizzly folder every Wednesday. It will have important notices and graded papers in it.
- Your child has **homework every weekday night** (Monday-Thursday). This could include an assignment or two in reading/language arts as well as an assignment or two in math and science. Each child is also expected to read a "just right" book for 20-30 minutes nightly and practice his/her basic math facts. Each marking period, students also have a "Responding to Literature Log" to complete.
- Your child's assignment book contains his/her nightly homework assignments. In addition, your **student's daily behavior** will be recorded in his/her assignment book. **Grizzly Grams** will be given on Fridays to students who have 4 or more "green days" that week.
- It would be helpful if **your child could reorganize his/her binder** every week or so, making sure that all papers are located behind the appropriate dividers. Also, graded and/or outdated papers (like math papers from Unit 1) can be taken out of the binder.
- Please remember to **keep your child's lunch account up-to-date**. Do not send money in daily. Instead, send in a check or cash weekly, bi-weekly or monthly. Also, don't forget to write your child's pin number on the check! Please put the money in a sealed envelope.

Thanks for your cooperation in these matters as we work together for the success of each child!!

November Birthdays:

Brooke Rasvage	11-6
Megan Tazza	11-8
Jesse Majane	11-8
Lia Haber	11-15
Michael Seyoum	11-15
Ryan Owusu-Afriyie	11-17
Zuriel Rivas	11-19
Jayson Palmer	11-21
Pooja Ravi	11-23
Darrell Jones	11-27

Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences are being held on **Wednesday, November 11th** and **Thursday, November 12th**. On both of these days, students will be dismissed at 1:00 to allow teachers time to meet with the parents of each child in her homeroom class. Conferences are scheduled before school, during school, and after school on both of these days. By now, you should have received a notice from your child's homeroom teacher reminding you of when you are scheduled to meet. **If this day and/or time no longer works for you, please contact your child's teacher ASAP** so your conference can be re-scheduled. We look forward to meeting with each of you!

How the AGOPPE Model relates to the Six Traits of Writing:

Ask questions (A) = ideas

Gather information (G) = ideas

Organize information (O) = organization

Prepare information (P) = sentence fluency; word choice; conventions

Present information (P) = presentation

Evaluate (E) = presentation



Examples of Historical Fiction:

Baseball Saved Us by Ken Mochizuki

A Jar of Dreams by Yoshiko Uchida

In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson by Bette Bao Lord

The Magic Tree House series by Mary Pope Osborne

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry



Examples of Realistic Fiction:

A Chair for My Mother by Vera Williams

Grandpa's Face by Eloise Greenfield

Harriet the Spy by Louise Fitzhugh

I Can Hear the Sun by Patricia Polacco

Shiloh by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

Writing and Social Studies

This quarter, fourth graders will focus on **writing to inform**. To learn more about various groups of Native Americans, students will work with the **AGOPPE model** (ask questions; gather information; organize information; prepare information; present information; and evaluate) in writing class and in computer lab with Mrs. Portocarrero-Pitt. This research project ties directly into our Social Studies curriculum. Students will learn about **note-taking** as well as **writing summaries**. The writing essential questions we will focus on this month are:

- ★How can I collect ideas and find ideas and topics for my writing?
- ★How does the organization of my writing help the reader understand my writing?
- ★How do organizational structure aides such as outlines, lists, or note cards help me organize information when I write a research report?

The Social Studies essential questions we will focus on at the same time are:

- ★How do the characteristics of a region influence a population and its culture?
- ★How do people change their environment, and what are the consequences?

Reading

This month, students will continue to read for **literary experience**. Mrs. Dickerson's and Mrs. Dominguez's reading classes will complete a genre study of **historical fiction** while Mrs. Greenwald's and Mrs. Page's classes will focus on **realistic fiction**. In December, classes will complete the other genre study. In Historical Fiction texts, the setting plays a key role as it contains events from the past as well as historical clothes, food, transportation, and language. The genre of Realistic Fiction was introduced to students in the first quarter. Now, we explore the genre more deeply. These stories contain realistic characters with problems that could actually occur. Humor is often included in these stories and many of society's problems (peer relationships, growing up, and cultural differences) are exemplified in the text. In guided reading, students will complete novel studies. When possible, these texts will directly relate to the genre being studied in whole group reading. By the end of the month, students will be able to answer the following questions:

- ★What are the characteristics of historical fiction?
- ★What are the characteristics of realistic fiction?
- ★How does knowing the cultural and historical background of a text help me to comprehend the text?
- ★How does knowing that a character is a historical figure help me understand his/her character traits and motives for acting a certain way?

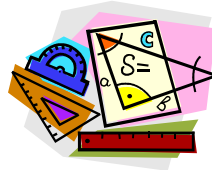
At the same time we begin our new genre study, students will work with **non-fiction texts** and their organizational structure. We will explore the structures of: description, sequence, comparison, cause/effect, and problem/solution. To help students understand these concepts, we will work with a variety of graphic organizers. The essential questions we focus on with reading to be informed are:

- ★What characteristics are common to non-fiction or informational text?
- ★What do good readers do when they read informational text?
- ★How does recognizing the organizational structure of an informational text help me to locate information and understand what I read?

Mathematics

Students in Mrs. Page's math class will begin their study of plane geometry and the relationship between plane figures to solid figures. The indicators they will focus on are:

- ★ Identify, describe, compare, and classify two- and three-dimensional figures by relevant properties including the number and size of angles, the number vertices, the number of edges, and the shapes of the faces.
- ★ Identify and draw circles and identify relationships among the radius, diameter, center, and circumference
- ★ Draw geometric figures using tools and technology.
- ★ Identify and label the vertex and rays of an angle.
- ★ Use protractors to measure angles.



Home of the Grizzlies



We're on the Web!
<http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/goshenes/>

Fourth Grade Teachers' Email Addresses:



Valerie Bartel

Valerie_S_Bartel@mcpsmd.org

Cathy Dickerson

Cathy_L_Dickerson@mcpsmd.org

Maureen Dominguez

Maureen_A_Dominguez@mcpsmd.org

Colleen Duda

Colleen_M_Duda@mcpsmd.org

Sharon Greenwald

Sharon_F_Greenwald@mcpsmd.org

Ashley Page

Ashley_C_Page@mcpsmd.org

Students in Mrs. Dickerson's math class, Mrs. Dominguez's math class, and Mrs. Greenwald's math class are beginning their second unit of study. The indicators they will be studying include:



- ★ Simplify numeric expressions involving parentheses
- ★ Identify multiples
- ★ Identify factors
- ★ Demonstrate mastery of multiplication and division fact families
- ★ Use variables in open sentences
- ★ Solve for the unknown in an equation
- ★ Generalize a pattern by stating a rule



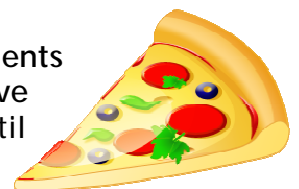
More information about the second unit in Grade 4 and Grade 5 math are attached to this newsletter!

It would benefit all students to continue practicing basic facts (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division) at home every night.

Pizza Hut Book-It

Your child has been reading for 20 minutes each night as part of his/her homework. Books include those chosen from a classroom library, the media center, or a literature circle book. Goshen is joining "Book It," which is a reading incentive program sponsored by Pizza Hut.

Simply color the attached calendar with the days your child read for 20 minutes. Students will return the calendars at the end of the month to homeroom teachers and receive their certificate for a free personal pan pizza from Pizza Hut. The program runs until the end of March. Happy Reading and enjoy your free pizza!





Goshen's Fourth Graders are "Going for the Green!"

Congratulations to the following students who had a "green day" for each and every day of the month of October!

From Mrs. Dickerson's Class

- Andre Abanto
- Samantha Bartell
- Connor Beaudoin
- Ryan Chernosky
- Lydie Diwa
- Jasmine Hil
- Shany-Jo Kayo
- Dachelle Lee
- Daniel Luu
- Jak Metcalfe
- Valerie Morales
- Salma Mowlana
- Matthew Navato
- Annie Nguyen
- Brooke Rasavage
- Vanessa Serpas
- Andrea Vasquez
- Eamon Vera
- Samantha Yee

From Mrs. Dominguez's Class

- Laverne Acheampong
- Jayson Amoa
- Tyler Arnold
- Aaron Chin
- Christian Climaco
- Sean Decena
- Susy Harris
- Sierra Ison
- Don Jyan L. Jimenez
- Jordan Kaplan
- Maryam Kushwaha
- Emily Morales
- Topaz Morales
- Darius Pedreira
- Yasmine Pierre
- Lexi Polen
- Andrew Renehan
- Sonia Rodriguez
- Rebecca Selthoffer
- Barbara Teta

From Mrs. Greenwald's Class

- Jackie Alvarez
- Melanie Armas-Samayoa
- Sean Austin
- Kevin Banner
- Jasmeet Battu
- Marisa Casay
- Hunter Cleaver
- Anjali Dhamsania
- Jake Exler
- Lia Haber
- Joseph Hughes
- Darrell Jones
- Sachi Kaur
- Mathieu Landry
- Matthew Luu
- Charlene Pfinayi
- Meghan Robbins
- Erin Swanberg
- Megan Tazza
- Stephanie Zamora

From Mrs. Page's Class

- Rasean Addison
- Akash Dhamsania
- Andrew Howe
- Kait Hughey
- Allison Hurst
- Ashley Li
- Jesse Majane
- Maria Marius
- Olivia Mukande
- Ryan Owusu
- Charmaine Pfinayi
- Nick Ramlal
- Reeghan Reitnauer
- Nathaniel Rivas
- Paulita Romero
- Michael Seyoum
- Ariannah Simmons
- Elmer Vega
- Zoe Welch

Look for those students who earned all "greens" for the entire month of November in our next monthly newsletter!

We want to hear from YOU!

We would love to get feedback from you on what you like about the newsletter, what you would like to see changed, ideas you have, questions you have, etc. Please fill out the bottom of this slip and return to your child's homeroom teacher 😊

Name (only needed if you would like a response): _____

Comment(s): _____
