

# Fourth Grade Newsletter

October 7, 2009  
Volume 5, Issue 2

Goshen Elementary School  
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## Upcoming Events

- ◆ October 8<sup>th</sup> - Goshen Grizzly Academy Begins
- ◆ October 12<sup>th</sup> - Open House for Parents
- ◆ October 13<sup>th</sup> - Individual Student Pictures
- ◆ October 15<sup>th</sup> - Flu Clinic for students in the Media Center
- ◆ October 16<sup>th</sup> - MSTA Convention (No School)
- ◆ October 30<sup>th</sup> - End of the 1<sup>st</sup> Marking Period
- ◆ November 2<sup>nd</sup> - Professional Day (No School for Students)



## October Birthdays:

Maria Marius	10-2
Mrs. Dominguez	10-6
Mrs. Page	10-9
Barbara Teta	10-10
Reeghan Reitnauer	10-18

## 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. Students are also expected to read a "just right" book for 20-30 minutes nightly and record information about these books in their "Responding to Literature Log." Students should also practice their basic math facts. Please make sure your child is completing this work and putting it back in his/ her binder each night.
- Please check your child's assignment book every night. This is where students are expected to record their nightly homework. In addition, your student's daily behavior will be recorded in their assignment book. Please discuss your child's behavior with him/ her and sign his/ her assignment book nightly.
- Every few days, help your child reorganize his/her binder, making sure that all papers are located behind the appropriate dividers.
- Please remember to keep your child's lunch account up-to-date. Do not send money in daily. Instead, send in a check weekly, bi-weekly or monthly. Also, don't forget to write your child's pin number on the check!

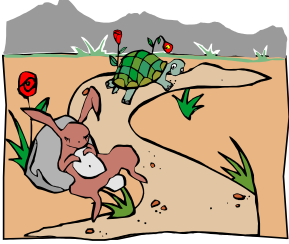
## Open House

On Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup> (Columbus Day), Goshen will hold its Open House. This is an opportunity for parents to visit the classroom, see the activities in which your child is participating, and experience the curriculum first hand. Parents are invited to visit the school in the morning between 9:30 and 11:30 and/or in the afternoon from 1:30 to 3:00. This will provide you with the opportunity to see your child in his/her writing, spelling, reading and language arts block in the morning as well as his/her math class in the afternoon. We look forward to seeing you on Monday!

## Halloween Parties

All classes will hold their Halloween Parties in the afternoon of Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. Students are asked not to dress up in their costumes until it is time for the party and parade. To help cover the cost of the Halloween party (as well as the Valentine's Day Party in February), we are asking all fourth grade students to contribute \$4 in cash. If your child will not be participating in one of the holiday parties, then you only need to send in \$2.00. Parents wishing to help out at the Halloween Party or see their child dressed up are more than welcome to attend.





### **Examples of Fables:**

**[The Ant and the Grasshopper](#)**

**[Belling the Cat](#)**

**[The Boy Who Cried Wolf](#)**

**[The Fox and the Crow](#)**

**[The Lion and the Mouse](#)**

**[The Tortoise and the Hare](#)**

**[The Town Mouse and the](#)**

**[Country Mouse](#)**



### **Examples of Fantasies:**

**[Bunnacula](#)**

**[James and the Giant Peach](#)**

**[Jumanji](#)**

**[The Lion, the Witch, and the](#)**

**[Wardrobe](#)**

**[The Magic School House books](#)**

**[Strega Nona](#)**

**[Stuart Little](#)**

**[The Velveteen Rabbit](#)**

### **Fourth Grade Teachers' Email Addresses:**



Valerie Bartel

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Maureen Dominguez

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Colleen Duda

Colleen\_M\_Duda@mcpsmd.org

Sharon Greenwald

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## Reading

In October, students are continuing to read for literary experience. In Mrs. Dominguez and Mrs. Dickerson's classes students will be focusing on fantasies. Fantasies are stories that require the reader to "suspend disbelief" as events that cannot occur happen in the story. In Mrs. Page and Mrs. Greenwald's classes, students will be reading fables. Fables are a type of folktale that teaches a lesson through the actions of the main character, who is usually an animal. They also usually contain a moral.

Classes will then begin a unit on reading to be informed. Students will review text features that they have studied in previous grades and how they help good readers to locate information within a non-fiction book. We will sort the text features into four categories - print features, graphic aids, organizational aids, and illustrations - depending on its purpose. In guided reading, students will continue to reflect on what they read and write BCRs (Brief Constructed Responses) to posed questions. They will also focus on skills good readers use when working with informational texts, such as highlighting important information, summarizing, skimming, and scanning the text. The essential questions we will focus on are:

- How does fiction differ from informational text?
- What do good readers do when they read informational text?
  - How do text features confirm, clarify or extend my understanding of a topic/subject?
- How is writing a summary of informational text different from writing a summary of a story?
- How does thinking about what I already know about a topic help me when I read?

## Writing

Students are currently finishing their first writing piece, which was a personal narrative about a friend. Then, fourth graders will have the opportunity to write an original fable. This unit ties directly to students' reading instruction. In writing, students will continue to take part in writing workshop which involves mini-lessons, discussions, independent writing, guided writing, conferencing, sharing, and reflecting. The essential questions for the remainder of the marking period are:

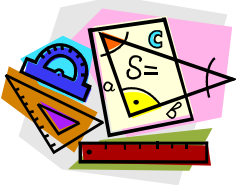
- ★ How can I collect ideas and find ideas and topics for my writing?
- ★ How can I use the feedback and suggestions I get to help me with my writing?
- ★ How does the organization of my writing help the reader understand my writing?
- ★ What strategies can I use to revise my writing to make it clear for my audience?

## Spelling

Spelling will continue in guided groups. The spelling lists are differentiated for separate groups, and each group focuses on a particular spelling concept. Students will have spelling words that will come home bi-weekly, and then have activities to complete in school and home with their individual lists. Please work with your child to study their spelling words. The tests will be generally given the Friday of the second week, and will be scored based on correct spelling, as well as being placed into the correct category.

## Mathematics

In October, fourth graders in Mrs. Dickerson's, Mrs. Dominguez's math class and Mrs. Greenwald's math class will study geometry. Students will learn about the types of angles, differentiate between lines, line segments and rays, and name solid figures as well as their attributes. Students will take their Unit 1 assessment at the end of October.



- ★ How are angles classified?
- ★ How can objects be represented and compared using geometric attributes?
- ★ How are points, lines, line segments, rays and angles related?
- ★ What strategies aid in mastering multiplication and division facts?

## Home of the Grizzlies



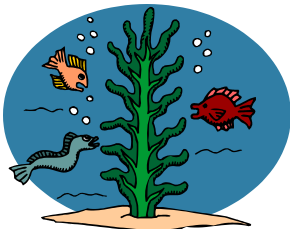
Mrs. Page's and Mrs. Duda's math classes first unit focuses on whole numbers and functional relationships. Right now, students are learning about integers, patterns, and function tables. Students will take their Unit 1 assessment towards the end of the month. Review packets will be coming home with students in order to review for this assessment. When students begin their second unit, they will learn about plane geometry (lines, angles, polygons, and circles). The essential questions her class will focus on for this month are:

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

- ★How are graphs, tables and symbols used to represent relationships?
- ★What is the relationship between patterns and functions?
- ★How is the size of an angle related to rotation?

## Science

This month, students will be busy **observing and recording the behavior of the plants and animals living within their eco-columns**. There will be opportunities to label diagrams, food chains, and food webs of the studied creatures. Students will also read and discuss articles focusing on ecosystems in order to extend their knowledge. Our focus questions for this month include:



- How are animals and plants grouped?
- What do living things need to grow and survive?
- How do organisms interact?
- What affects the survival of an organism?
- How are organisms affected by their environment?
- How do human behaviors affect the environment?

## Social Studies

In the first Social Studies unit, students will continue to study the elements of maps (border, title, author, grid, orientation, key, scale, and date) and different types of maps (political, thematic, and physical). We will also continue to discuss geographic characteristics of regions of the United States and determine how those physical characteristics impact the culture and settlements of people in that area. Our focus questions for this unit of study include:

- How can we use geographic tools to acquire and analyze information about geographic systems?
- How do the characteristics of a region influence a population and its culture?
- How do people change their environment and what are the consequences?





## 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 September!

From Mrs. Greenwald's Class:	From Mrs. Dominguez's Class:	From Mrs. Page's Class:	From Mrs. Dickerson's Class:
Jackie Alvarez	Laverne Acheampong	Elmer Vega	Samantha Bartell
Sean Austin	Aaron Chin	Akash Dhamsania	Connor Beaudoin
Kevin Banner	Christian Climaco	Andrew Howe	Ryan Chernosky
Jasmeet Battu	Sean Decena	Nathaniel Rivas	Lydie Diwa
Marisa Casay	Suzy Harris	Victoria Parris	Jasmine Hill
Hunter Cleaver	Sierra Ison	Maria Marius	B. Jackson
CJ Cramma	Deejay Jimenez	Ryan Owusu	Shany-Jo Kayo
Anjali Dhamsania	Timothy Johnson	Ashley Li	Dachelle Lee
Jake Exler	Jordan Kaplan	Allison Hurst	Daniel Luu
Lia Haber	Maryam Kushwaha	Ariannah Simmons	Jack Metcalfe
Joseph Hughes	Jocelyn Martinez	Paulita Romero	Valerie Morales
Kyle Johnson	Emily Morales	Nick Ramlal	Salma Mowlana
Darrell Jones	Topaz Morales	Charmaine Pfanyi	Matthew Navato
Sachi Kaur	Yasmine Pierre	Jesse Majane	Annie Nguyen
Mathieu Landry	Lexi Polen	Reeghan Reitnauer	Brooke Rasavage
Matthew Luu	Pooja Ravi	Kait Hughey	Vanessa Serpas
Jordan Odom	Andrew Renehan	Zoe Welch	Andrea Vasquez
Bryan Pastran	Sonia Rodriguez	Alex Montella	Eamon Vera
Charlene Pfinayi	Rebecca Selthoffer	Trenton Kneiff	Jorin Vincent
Meghan Robbins	Barbara Teta	Olivia Mukande	Samantha Yee
Erin Swanberg			
Megan Tazza			
Stephanie Zamora			

Look for those students who earned all "greens" for the entire month of October 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): \_\_\_\_\_

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