

# Fourth Grade Newsletter

September 9, 2009  
Volume 4, Issue 1

Goshen Elementary School  
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## Upcoming Events

- ◆ September 24<sup>th</sup>-  
Back-to-School  
Night for grades  
3-5
- ◆ September 28<sup>th</sup>-  
Yom Kippur  
(No School)
- ◆ October 2<sup>nd</sup> -  
Grading and  
Planning Day  
(Early Release)



## September Birthdays:

Jordan Kaplan	9-1
Sean Austin	9-1
Jonathan Villatoro	9-2
Vanessa Serpas	9-6
Bryce Mattson	9-8
Bryan Pastran	9-16
Matthew Luu	9-16
Paula Romero	9-21
Nicholas Ramlal	9-25
Victoria Parris	9-25
Charlene Pfinayi	9-27
Charmaine Pfinayi	9-27
Andre Abanto	9-29

## 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.
- 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 Also, graded and/or outdated papers may be taken out of the binder.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!!

## Fourth Grade Specials

Each week, fourth graders have P.E., music, art, and computer lab. It is essential that students dress appropriately each day for the special they have that day. On art days, students should wear older clothes or bring a smock. Students should wear tennis shoes on the day that their class attends P.E.

Fourth Grade Specials Schedule				
	Art	Computer Lab	Music	P.E.
Dickerson	Thursday	Wednesday	Friday	Monday
Dominguez	Thursday	Tuesday	Monday	Friday
Greenwald	Wednesday	Friday	Tuesday	Thursday
Page	Friday	Monday	Wednesday	Thursday





### **Examples of Fantasies:**

[Bunnica](#)

[James and the Giant Peach](#)

[Jumanji](#)

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

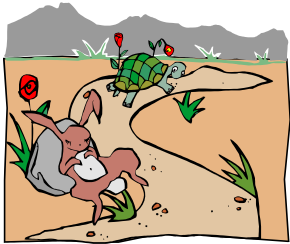
[Wardrobe](#)

[The Magic School House books](#)

[Strega Nona](#)

[Stuart Little](#)

[The Velveteen Rabbit](#)



### **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](#)

## Reading

In September, students are reading for literary experience. Mrs. Page and Mrs. Greenwald's classes 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. Dominguez and Mrs. Dickerson'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.

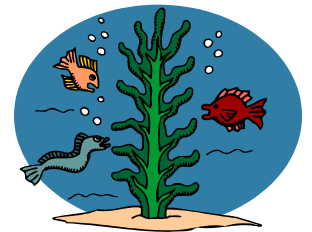
This month, students will also be introduced to literature circles, which are small-group book discussions. In guided reading, students will read texts at their instructional level and focus on before, during, and after reading strategies that good readers use.

## Writing

This month, students will focus on writing for personal expression when they begin writing a personal narrative. They will have the opportunity to listen to examples of others' personal narratives in order to gain ideas for their own pieces. Students will also be instructed on the 6+1 traits of writing: conventions, ideas, organization, sentence fluency, voice, word choice + presentation. Throughout the school year, students will work through the entire writing process (drafting, revising, editing, final product) with some pieces. When students have finished products, they will place these final drafts in their writing folders.

## Science

In the upcoming weeks, fourth graders will be busy setting up class terrariums and aquariums. These will then be connected to one another in order to create eco-columns. Students will have the opportunity to observe and record information about the plants and animals living within the 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.



We use 2-liter bottles to create our ecosystems. If you are able to send any bottles in, we would greatly appreciate it!

## Social Studies

In the first Social Studies unit, students will locate the elements of a map (border, title, author, grid, orientation, key, scale, and date) and identify different types of maps (political, thematic, and physical). We will then explore geographic characteristics of regions of the United States and determine how those physical characteristics impact the culture and settlements of people in that area.



# Mathematics

Students in Mrs. Dickerson’s math class, Mrs. Dominguez’s math class and Mrs. Greenwald’s math class are beginning the year by studying place value. Students will work with numbers up to the millions place. Next, we will begin our unit on data analysis where students will learn how to create and read several types of graphs including line plots, line graphs and double bar graphs. We will also determine the range, median, mode, and range of a given data set. Students will be asked to consider such questions as:



- ★ How are place value patterns repeated in large numbers?
- ★ How does the type of data influence the choice of graph?
- ★ What kinds of questions can be answered using different data displays?
- ★ In what ways can sets of data be represented by statistical measures?

Mrs. Duda’s and Mrs. Page’s first unit focuses on whole numbers and functional relationships. Right now, students are learning about prime and composite numbers as well as factors, multiples and divisibility rules. At the end of the month, students will begin studying mathematical relationships. The essential questions her class will focus on for this unit are:

- ★How can a number be broken down into its smallest factors?
- ★What is the relationship between patterns and functions?
- ★How are graphs, tables, and symbols used to represent relationships?



More information about the first 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.

## Home of the Grizzlies



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

### Fourth Grade Teachers’ Email Addresses:



- Valerie Bartel  
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- Ashley Page  
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## 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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