



# 4th Grade News

## Winter 2007

### Reminders:

- 2/27 half day for students
- 3/12-3/23 MSA testing
- 3/29 Maryland Agricultural Farm Park field trip
- 4/2-4/9 Spring Break
- 4/11 Report card distribution



### Upcoming Field Trips

- 3/29 Montgomery County Agricultural Farm Park Field Trip  
Students will learn about nutrition, ecology, types of soil, where our food comes from, food chains, and pollution.
- 4/27 or 4/30 Smith Center

Students will learn about ecology. More information will be sent home at a later date.



**Math-** Unit three test study guides will be going home in February. As you can see from your child's homework we have been studying fractions. We will be covering decimal fractions and probability in the near future. Unit four will cover elapsed time, multiplication and division. See attachments for fifth grade indicators.

**Language Arts-** In writing, we will choose an important event in our lives and make an autobiographical sketch and also write to persuade. In reading the genres of plays and biographies will be read.

**Science-** We are starting our study of chemistry. We will learn about the states of matter through observation and investigation. Under the earth/space science standard we will be studying changes in weather.

**Social Studies-** We will begin to study immigration to America. Students will interview family members to learn about their heritage. They will create a poster about the country of their origin.

### Mrs. Gunby's Class Mission Statement

In Mrs. Gunby's class we are a team of hard working, independent students who are successful. We are here to get ready for fifth grade and to get a good education. We think to learn. We work respectfully together and help each other. We will pay attention, work hard, participate, come to school every day, complete our homework and class work and try our best.

MSA TESTING is coming soon. Fourth grade students will be tested in reading March 14 and 15. Math tests will be given March 20 and 21. Please make sure your child eats a good breakfast and gets a good night's sleep!

# Language Arts Indicators

## In reading students will use elements of drama (plays) to facilitate understanding

- Use structural features to identify a play as a literary form
- Identify and explain the action of a scene
- Identify and explain how stage directions create character and movement
- Identify and explain stage directions and dialogue that help to create character.

**Writing:** Students will compose effective persuasive writing and write to express personal ideas. Students will use the writing process to plan/pre-write, draft, revise, edit, and publish

## Vocabulary

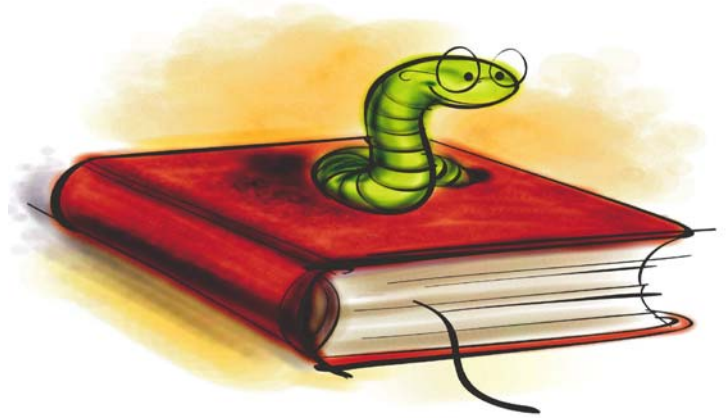
- Develop and apply vocabulary through exposure to a variety of texts
- Develop a conceptual understanding of new words
- Understand, acquire, and use new vocabulary

## Students will read biographies to:

- Develop comprehension skills by reading a variety of self-selected and assigned informational texts
- Identify and use text features to facilitate understanding of informational texts
- Develop knowledge of organizational structure of informational text to understand what is read
- Determine important ideas and messages in informational text
- Identify and explain the author's use of language
- Read critically to evaluate informational text

## In spelling students will:

- Recognize conventions of spelling in and through personal and academic reading
- Apply conventional spelling in written language
- Maintain a personal list of words to use in editing original writing
- Foci will be on homophones, ch and th endings, using -ion and -sion, prefixes tran- and sub-, suffixes -er and -est



## Teacher's Wish List

1. All assignment books will be checked by parents nightly.
2. Remove notices BUT NOT STUDENT PAPERS (these stay in the binder) from Go-Home folder.
3. Students return homework daily.
4. Students will have a pencil and all other supplies.
5. Students will be dressed appropriately for outdoor recess.
6. Students will come to school on time, well rested, and ready to learn!
7. Please save egg cartons and send to school. We need them for our last Science unit.



# INSTRUCTION IN FOURTH GRADE

How does 4th grade provide for rigorous instruction of all students? In math, opportunities for instruction at each student's level have been provided. Some students are in a fifth grade group, and others are in a fourth grade level group. In all classes, students are exposed to above grade level indicators. Within those classes, students are divided into small, flexible groups for further instruction to meet their individual needs.

Reading instruction in the classroom is differentiated according to the student's reading level. Students are taught grade level indicators using appropriate text.

In addition to the classroom teacher, some students are further supported by the ESOL teacher, resource teacher, math support teacher, and reading intervention teacher.

As you can see, instruction is designed in a variety of ways to meet the needs of all students.



## Social Studies

### Social Studies Indicators

- Students will gain an overview of the migration experience of four immigrants to Maryland
- Students will build a time line to discover settlement patterns of the U.S. today.
- Students will gain understanding of the settlements of St. Mary's City, Jamestown, and Plymouth.



## Science

### Chemistry Indicators

- Provide evidence to support the fact that matter has observable and measurable properties.
- Provide evidence from investigations to identify the processes that can be used to change materials from one state of matter to another.
- Cite evidence to support the statement that “No matter how many parts of an object are assembled, the mass of the whole object made is always the sum of the parts.”

### Changes of state in the weather indicators

- Recognize and describe that each season has different weather conditions.
- Recognize and describe that the amount of water on earth continues to stay the same even though it may change from one form to another.