



4th Grade

BANNOCKBURN ELEMENTARY 6520 DALROY LANE · BETHESDA, MD · 20817

A Letter from the Desk of...

The Fourth-Grade Team

focus

Dear 4th-Grade Parents and Students,

We hope that you and your family had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday! It's hard to believe that we're already into the last month of 2010! As the year comes to an end and we reach the midpoint of the second quarter of 4th grade, we wanted to express our excitement over the hard work of every fourth-grade student. We so enjoy the students' enthusiasm for learning and have seen great academic and social growth in your children.

The students did an outstanding job with their fantasy cereal box projects. We were bowled over by the creative titles and slogans, excellent artistry, and fantastic summarizing. The at-home project for November and December is currently in full swing. Students should be designing an artifact or display that represents their assigned tribes. For more information about this project, please refer to the information that was sent home on November 19th. Or, visit the Social Studies section of the 4th-grade website: www.bes4th.weebly.com. This project is due on Friday, December 17th (extended deadline! new date!). **These projects, in addition to the in-school research being done in Technology and Social Studies, will be displayed at our 2nd annual Native American Museum on Tuesday, December 21st at 10:00-11:00 in the Cafeteria and Tech Lab! Join us!**

Additionally, the fourth graders enjoyed an in-school field trip near the end of November. *Explore-it-All Science* took over the Bannockburn gym to set up a planetarium. Students learned about constellations as the Navajo Indians saw them. Ask your fourth-grader to identify the North Star or, as the Navajo Indian's called it: the Home Fire Star. Students learned about Navajo legends and how they relate to astronomy as well. Our next field trip will be in April to the Woodlawn Manor Museum to participate in colonial life activities!

Our fourth-grade winter party is a combined party. All fourth-graders will celebrate the upcoming winter break with a viewing of *Stone Fox*. The movie is based on the realistic fiction book we all read at the beginning of November. This party will be held on Thursday, December 23rd in the afternoon.

Please check with your child regarding school supplies. Some students' supplies need replenishing (i.e. pencils, folders, etc.).

Fondly,
Mr. Anderson, Ms. Levenson, and Ms. Rardin





Mark Your Calendars!

Friday, December 3 rd :	Make-up Picture Day
Friday, December 3 rd :	Drama Club Production, 7:00 p.m., Whitman HS
Saturday, December 4 th :	Drama Club Production, 7:00 p.m., Whitman HS
Tuesday, December 7 th :	PTA Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, December 8 th :	Principal's Coffee, 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday, December 14 th :	Winter Sing, 9:40 a.m., (parents invited)
Friday, December 17 th :	Native American Projects Due
Friday, December 17 th :	Cultural Arts Assembly during school
Tuesday, December 21 st :	Native American Museum, 10-11:00 a.m., Cafeteria
Thursday, December 23 rd :	4 th -grade Winter Party; Last day of School
Friday, December 24 th - Sunday, January 2 nd :	Winter Break
Monday, January 3 rd :	First day back to school

KEEP IN TOUCH
WITH YOUR
CHILD'S
TEACHER



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WHAT WE'RE LEARNING:

We will turn our focus to historical fiction in **Language Arts**. Students will be learning about the characteristics of this genre. Specifically, they will be learning about the elements which signal that a piece of literature is historical fiction (i.e. setting, events, word choice). We look forward to connecting our study of historical fiction to an exciting project in January for informational writing! More information to come!

In **Social Studies**, students will use the month to finish their study of Native American culture.

We will continue our study of environmental **Science** in the month of December. At the beginning of the year, we focused on Life Science and how different organisms interact and affect one another. Now, we're looking at how the environment impacts life. Specifically, we are looking at how humans alter ecosystems. We'll also continue with our weekly labs that give students great practice with the scientific method.

In **Technology**, students are using *NoodleTools* to learn to paraphrase information and, thus, take notes on their Native American tribe. This information will then be displayed in a *PowerPoint* presentation.