



# October 7

## Fourth Grade Newsletter

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Bethesda Elementary

Issue 1

### Curriculum News

#### What Are We Learning This Quarter?

#### Math 4

##### Geometry

- Angles, rays, lines & points
- Solid figures

#### Math 5

- Patterns
- Expressions
- Function Tables
- Coordinate Graphs

#### Reading

##### Genre Fantasy

- Fantasy test - Oct. 11th

##### Non-Fiction Text

- Fiction vs non-fiction
- Why text features are important
- Heading and sub-headings

##### Literature Circles

We are beginning literature circles and students are learning roles that will enable them to run their own discussion groups.

#### Writing

- Choosing a Seed Idea
- Writing Discovery Drafts
- Revising leads
- Revising endings
- Conferring with a partner

#### Science

##### Ecosystems

- Recording qualitative and quantitative observations
- Recognizing the basic needs of all living things
- Identifying the importance of producers and consumers in an ecosystem

#### Social Studies

- Exploring relationships between geographic characteristics and the culture of Native Americans.



#### Writing

In writing this quarter the focus is "Personal Narratives." Students should be writing in their writer's notebooks about personal experiences they've had. The key is to zoom in on a specific time and write step-by-step what happened. Some suggestions in class were to write about a person, place, or object that is special to you. For example, don't write all about your day at the beach but pick one activity you did that day, "Making sandcastles with my dad," and write everything that happened.

All writing in the writer's notebooks are ideas and is not graded. The purpose is for students to have sustained writing for at least 15 - 20 minutes. They are to be used later for published topics.

**Reminder:** students should be writing in their writer's notebooks twice a week. **Write on Tues & Thurs.**

#### After School Activities

A variety of after school activities are offered. Please be sure that your child is aware of transportation plans and the After School Activity Transportation Form has been completed and returned to your child's teacher.

If your child is participating in Office Hours, he or she is encouraged to bring a snack to enjoy before settling down to work!

#### Inside this issue:

Curriculum News

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Word Study



**"Man's mind, once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimensions."**

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

#### Word Study

We are well underway with our 4th grade spelling program. Please be sure that students are completing daily homework, and on week 2 of spelling, choosing their personal words with your help. You can find the homework in the front of the word study journal. All written work should be done in the journal. Students should follow the format in the word study journal with special attention to the correct headings. Each day we will check to see that students completed the assignments. Parents should review the work with their children for accuracy. Thank you for all of your support!

#### Important Dates

- **Tues., Oct. 11th - Taking Care Assembly 10:15 - 11:00**
- **Wed., Oct. 19th & Thurs., Oct. 20th - 4th grade math test**
- **Fri., Oct. 21st - No School - Teacher Convention**
- **Tues, Oct 25th—Author/Illustrator presentation**
- **Fri., Oct. 28th - Halloween parade/parties in the afternoon**
- **Mon., Oct. 31st - No School for students - Professional Day**
- **Wed. Nov. 10 & Thurs. Nov 11 - Half days - Parent/Teacher conferences**

