



JANUARY NEWSLETTER



FOURTH GRADE

JANUARY 2012



WELCOME BACK!!!

We hope everyone had a relaxing Winter Break and found time to spend with friends and family. Students came back refreshed and got right back into their routines without a hitch. We're excited for the fun and learning we have planned for the rest of Quarter 2!



Volunteers Needed!

Valentine's Day is right around the corner and we'll need to start planning for our class parties soon. If you're interested in helping plan & organize the party please contact your child's homeroom teacher. If you'd like to come the day of to help out please let us know that too- we'll pass your name along to the parents in charge.



Looking Ahead...

- Jan. 16 No School- Martin Luther King's Birthday (observed)
- Jan. 20 End of 2nd Marking Period
- Jan. 23 No School for students- Professional Day
- Jan. 31 Reading/Math Night

HUSKY DASHERS CLUB

The Husky Dashers is an afterschool club that's designed to boost reading & math skills while having fun at the same time. The club will meet Tuesdays & Wednesdays (one day for math and one day for reading) from 3:00-4:15pm **OR** from 8:00-8:30am, depending on what the majority prefers. Students that were invited to join the club were asked to have their permission slips back by Tuesday, January 10th. We'll gladly take them through the rest of the week. The club will run from Jan. 17th - Mar. 7th. If your child did not get an invitation, but would like to join the group, we'd love to have them- just send us an email and we'll send home a permission slip. If you have any questions about the Husky Dashers please don't hesitate to ask!



Mark Your Calendars!!!

Keep an eye out for information on our Clearspring Reading & Math Night to be held on January 31st. We have a fun-filled educational night in store for all that attend! We hope to see you there!

Classroom Updates

In the spirit of continuous reflection on teaching and learning, we've decided to change spelling tests to every 2 weeks. We believe this will give students more time to prepare and retain the words for future use. Please contact your child's homeroom teacher with any spelling questions or concerns.

Mr. Zimmerman's Social Studies/Science

We started a joint science project with the fourth grade GT center. This project is geared to helping students better understand the scientific method. During this project they will work with a student from the GT center to complete the steps of a science investigation. They will begin by deciding on a testable question and writing a hypothesis. They will then design the procedures for the investigation. At home they will need to complete the procedures and collect data. We will then use the data to write conclusions. By the time they finish they will have all of the parts to compete in the Science Fair should they choose. Science Fair registration forms went home on Wednesday, January 04, 2012.

I was impressed with the effort that all of the students put into their Native American projects. They worked hard on the research, wrote multiple paragraphs, typed it, and completed a presentation. Thank you for all of your help and support during this project. The feedback that I got from the students was that they really enjoyed the project. Scoring tools were passed back with grades and students were instructed to take them home in their data binders. If you haven't already seen it, ask your child about it.

Mrs. Randall's Reading/Language Arts

We finished our nonfiction unit right before the Winter Break. Students are now well into their realistic fiction unit. We've also been exploring poetry. Students had to opportunity

to write Diamante poems and they're lovely- Ask your child what their poem's about! You should be seeing your child's guided reading novel come home from time to time. It is imperative that they are keeping up with our novel timeline so they are prepared to participate in guided reading group. Lastly, please don't forget that the Book-It program is running through March. Students can earn a coupon for a free personal pizza from Pizza Hut just for turning in their reading calendar. Can't find it? Email me and I'll send another one home. Students got the January calendar the first day back from Winter Break.

Mrs. Foltyn's Math 4

We are currently working on our Fractions and Decimals Unit. Students are learning how to add and subtract fractions and mixed numbers with like denominators, find equivalent fractions and find fractions of a set. Students should continue to practice their basic facts at home and continue to use Study Island to practice and apply what they have learned. Our Unit 3 Assessment is tentatively scheduled for February 16th.

Mrs. Foltyn's Math 5 Class

Currently, we are studying fractions and decimals and we will begin showing equivalence with percent. Our Unit 3 Assessment covers a variety of topics including: addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers and decimals, comparing and ordering decimals and fractions, estimating decimal sums and differences, equivalent fractions, decimals, and percent. Our Unit Assessment is currently planned for February 8th but due to weather conditions, that may change! In the upcoming weeks, we will review and refresh our memories for MSA by covering material from 3rd and 4th grade Math.