

Fourth Grade News

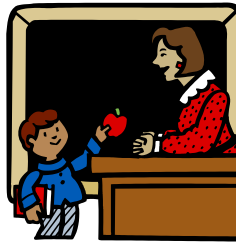
William B. Gibbs Jr. Elementary School

Mr. Delescavage, Ms. Futrovsky, Mr. Humphrey, Mr. Huston, Mrs. Mayers

Dear Fourth Grade Families,

September, 2011

We hope that you had a wonderful summer vacation and that you are ready to begin the 2011 -2012 school year. We have been busy planning and preparing for our upcoming school year. The fourth grade team has very high expectations that we are sure all students will meet. Please help your child maintain his/her assignment notebook. Each student will only receive one assignment notebook for the entire year. Also, please check the assignment notebook daily for all the homework assignments and initial them upon completion of homework. As a team, teachers, parents, and students can make this a wonderful and productive year for all! Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns. We hope to meet all of you soon at Back to School Night on Thursday, September 8th from 6:30—8:30. We will be discussing ways that you can help make this year successful for your child.



Important Dates:

8/29/11: First Day of School for Students

8/31/11: 6:30 p.m. PTA Meeting in All Purpose Room; 7:00 p.m. Parent Volunteer Orientation

9/2/11: MCPS Flyer Distribution Date; Grade Level Newsletters come home in backpacks

9/5/11: Labor Day Holiday! No School for Students, Staff, and Administration

9/8/11: 6:30-8:30 p.m. Back to School Night for Second through Fifth Grades in the Gymnasium

9/21/11: PTA-Sponsored Spirit Night at Chik-Fil-A (Drive through orders do not count toward profits)

9/28/11: 1:00 p.m. Early Dismissal for Students

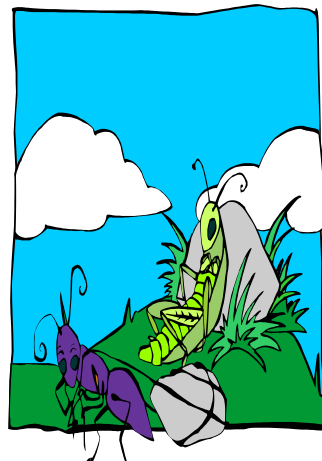
9/29/11: Rosh Hashanah, No School for Students and Teachers

Reading

Fourth grade students are also expected to read at least 25 level-appropriate books on their own during the school year. This will mean that they will be reading one book a week. Students will have access to books in our Media Center, and they will be

asked to keep a log of the books they've read throughout the year. traits, identify figurative language and

The fourth grade will begin with a unit on fables. Students will be reading various fables and discussing the morals. They will be asked to summarize the fables using the main idea, identify character



much more! Our Fable unit will be followed by a unit on fantasy which will begin toward the end of the month.

Writing

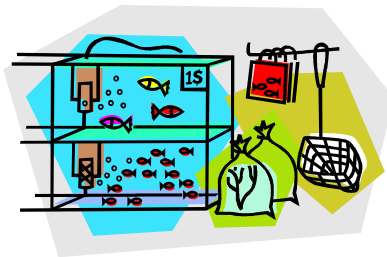
Students will begin the year writing to express personal ideas and feelings. They will be writing about their own experiences while learning the Writing Process. They will also be working on the Six Plus One Traits of writing which focuses on certain characteristics of good writing such as; ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, conventions and presentation.



Science

Our ecosystems kits have arrived, and we are ready to begin this exciting and challenging unit. Students will learn how to construct their own terrarium and aquarium with live animals. Students will use these ecosystems to report on the stability of the aquarium and terrarium and plan experiments to test how pollution affects an ecosystem. Fourth graders usually find this unit to be informative and fun!

We ask you to send in any two liter bottles (clear if possible) with your child for



our upcoming science class. Ideally, we need 105 bottles, so please send in as many as you can.

Social Studies

Our first unit in Social Studies focuses on the three map types; physical, political, and thematic. The first unit also focuses on the many ways that people modify and adapt to their environment to satisfy their economic wants. In particular, we will look at the ways that the Yaocomaco tribe in this Maryland lived. We will discuss their homes, clothing, tools, and culture.

