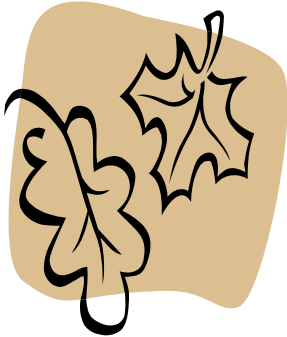


The 4th and 5th Grade Times

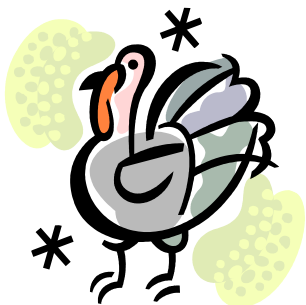
Volume I

October 23, 2009



Important Dates

- Halloween Parade:
2:00 PM
- Nov. 11th & 12: Early Dismissal for Parent Teacher Conferences
- Early Dismissal:
November 25th
- Thanksgiving Holiday:
November 26th & 27th



4th Grade Reading

In the first few months of school we have been working on procedures and strategies, and learning about the expectations for fourth grade. In reading, we learned how to determine whether a book is "Just Right" for independent reading. Students wrote response letters evaluating the level of their books and discuss their use of strategies while reading.

Our first genre study in fourth grade is Fables. We learned about the characteristics of fables, and we have been reading fables and determining the character's traits, the foible, the problem, and the lesson (which is stated as the moral).

We have begun our study of Fantasy and will be completing literature circles in the next few weeks.

4th Grade Writing

For the first few weeks, we focused on generating ideas for writing and developing these ideas into writer's notebook entries.

Our first process piece this year is a personal narrative. Students began by brainstorming lists of events for possible topics, and used a graphic organizer to narrow their topics. We then used another graphic organizer to develop and organize our ideas. Students are currently working on revising and editing their draft and we will begin publishing in the computer lab next week.

4th Grade Spelling

We are currently in the middle of our second spelling rotation. Our focus is words with the /er/ sound. The students have already completed one spelling test. They are generally every two weeks on Wednesday.

5th Grade Reading

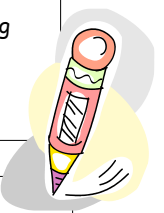
Fifth Grade Readers have been working on many strategies and procedures to establish an effective and efficient use of our class time during reading. Here are just some of the skills and procedures we have been working on: *The Five-Finger Test or Goldilocks Method* when choosing a book:

- Turn to the middle of the book
- Begin to read

-Put one finger up or down each time you come to a word you don't know, or have difficulty reading -Five fingers up or down? The book may be just a bit too challenging and saved to read for later on in the school year.

What Our Literature Circles Should Look Like and Sound Like:

- Expectations have been set up for how our Literature Circles should run in terms of cooperation, noise level, eye contact, and staying on task whether the teacher sitting with the group or working with another group.



5th Grade Writing

Writing for Personal Expression is the main focus for this first quarter. Students will spend most of the quarter learning strategies to brainstorm for ideas to add to their Writing Notebooks. We have a list in our Writing Notebooks for Entries, just in case we ever experience "Writer's Block". We will also examine authors' lives and their published work to inspire our own writing. We will be using our notebooks to store ideas and then develop ideas for writing topics. In addition, we will be using the Writing Process and the 6 Traits of Writing to develop our ideas from our notebooks to publish final stories, essays, and poems. Students are working on finalizing the last components of this Writing Project now in school.

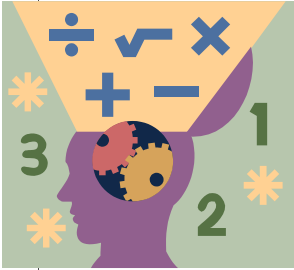
5th Grade Spelling

Groups of students continue to work on patterns of words related to Greek and Latin roots, syllables, prefixes and suffixes.

The 4th and 5th Grade Times

Volume I

October 23, 2009



4th Grade Math:

The first unit has come to an end. We assessed last week. Unit two began this week. We began unit two with number computation. Students will be writing numeric expressions in equivalent forms, simplifying expressions with parentheses, finding factors and multiples, and reviewing multiplication and division facts.

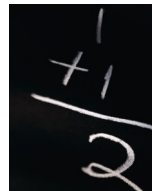
Key Vocabulary: commutative property, associative property, expressions, multiples, factors



5th Grade Math:

We have completed unit one and the assessment. Next week we will begin unit two which focuses on geometry. We will begin the unit by classifying angles as right, obtuse and acute and measuring the angles with a protractor. In addition we will explore angle relationships (supplementary, complementary and adjacent angles). The students will review how to draw circles with a compass and focus on the relationship between the radius, diameter and the circumference of a circle.

Key Vocabulary: angle, protractor, compass, parallelogram, circumference, diameter, radius, ray, polygon, vertex



Math 6:

We have started our unit on fractions, decimals and percents. Students have been learning how to divide and multiply numbers with decimals. Students will use their knowledge of multiplying and dividing to convert units of metric and customary measurement. They will look at models to see how using fractions and decimals is different from whole numbers. In addition students will be looking at how to convert between fractions, decimals and percents.

Key Vocabulary: estimation, rounding, product, quotient, equation, metric units, customary units

Math 7:

We have started the unit by reviewing operations with fractions and decimals. They will be using these skills to work with exponents, integers, and absolute value. Students will also be using different properties to help simplify expressions involving one or more variables.

Key Vocabulary: exponents, scientific notation, square root, real numbers, variables, expressions, equations

4th Grade Social Studies

In science we continue to observe our ecosystems and learn more about the components of an ecosystem such as food chains and food webs. Our first social studies unit is map skills. We have begun by learning about a compass rose and how to use it on a map. We will continue to learn about the other elements of a map: key, grid, mileage scale, elevation scale.

5th Grade Science

Students are now wrapping up their force, motion and energy science unit. The unit assessment will be the week of October 25. Students have analyzed how mass affects force and how force affects motion. They have also studied the difference between kinetic and potential energy. In addition students will be exploring the difference between renewable and nonrenewable sources of energy.

