



November 2009 Newsletter

Fourth Grade

Ronald McNair Elementary

“Work Hard. Be Nice.”

Dear Parents, The fourth grade team has decided that we will no longer collect money for snacks. Beginning Monday November 11, students must bring their own snacks to school. We have attached a list of suggested snacks to this newsletter. Please contact your child’s teacher with any questions.

Reading

We are examining the elements of realistic and historical fiction, focusing on setting, theme and mood. We will also begin to examine non-fiction texts, and compare them with fiction. We will continue our work on writing brief constructed responses and going back to the text for examples that support our thinking.

Science and Social Studies

In social studies, students will begin exploring different aspects of culture, focusing on the Native Americans of the Eastern Woodlands. We are learning about how people both adapt to and modify their environments in order to survive. Science is also focusing on survival, specifically the elements that encourage or discourage a healthy environment.

Writing

Our work in social studies is related to our next writing project: a research paper on the lives of native American cultures. This will be our first non-fiction piece. Students will use a variety of resources to conduct their research. They will use their map reading skills, conduct computer research, and use primary and secondary sources to gather the information they need to complete the project.

Math

In math, we have completed unit 1 (at last) and have moved to Unit 2: Number computation and number patterns and relationships. In order for students to be successful in this unit, it is critical for them to have a fast and accurate recall of basic multiplication and division facts. Please work with you children for 10 minutes a day reviewing their facts. At the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- 1.4.3.1 Use variables in open sentences
- 1.4.3.2 Solve for the unknown in an equation with one operation using whole numbers.
- 1.4.1.1 Generalize a pattern by stating a rule
- 1.4.1.2 Complete a one step function table using a given rule.
- 1.4.2.1 Write numeric expressions in equivalent forms using the commutative and associative properties.
- 6.4.6.1 Simplify numeric expressions involving parentheses.
- 6.4.3.1 Find multiples of numbers.
- 6.4.2.3 Find factors of numbers.

Parent Conferences

Parent conferences are scheduled for Wednesday November 11th and Thursday November 12th. You will have the opportunity to review report cards with teachers and discuss your child’s strengths and needs. We look forward to meeting with you, so please schedule a conference if you have not done so.

Fourth Grade Team

Cory Anastasi
Caitlin Faunce
Deborah Huffer
Kristine Johncox
Stacey Shorter
Pat Tilbury

Reminders

- Look for **Data Notebooks**, including **Learning Skills** on Fridays
- Students are to bring their **agenda** to school each day.
- Students are to return their signed **Data Notebooks** to school each Monday.
- **The 4 R’s for Homework:**
Read for 20 minutes each night. **Review**—homework is meant as a review of concepts already covered in class. **Run**—kids need play and exercise!
Rest— a good night’s sleep makes for an alert student.





Suggested Snack List

Do's	Don't
Pretzels	Food that must be eaten with utensils
Fruit/Vegetables	Drinks
Granola Bars	Peanut products
Cheese	Candy
Crackers	"Messy" finger foods (ex: Doritos/cheese puffs)
Cereal Bars	
Pre-packaged snack packs (ex: 100 calorie packs)	
Fruit snacks	

* Lunch this year is from 1:15pm-1:45pm. If you feel that your child will need a snack to hold them over until lunch time please send it in a small baggie. Please refer to the list above for foods to bring and not to bring. Thank you!

