

# September 2009 Newsletter

## Fourth Grade Ronald McNair Elementary "Work Hard, Be Nice"



Welcome To (or back to)  
4th Grade!

Please turn in your completed yellow emergency information and any other school forms.

### Homework

In fourth grade, your child will be taking on more responsibility for homework. Unless completion becomes an issue, your job is to provide:

- A **regular time** for homework (when you will be available for questions)
- A **regular place** for homework (quiet)
- Logical **consequences** for not completing it.

Students will have homework in reading, spelling, and math on Monday through Thursday. Students are also required to **read for at least twenty minutes** each night. Children should be spending **forty-five minutes** completing homework.

### Science and Social Studies

We have just begun our Life Science unit. Students will learn about the diversity of living organisms and how identifiable features of plants and animals are used to classify living organisms. **Students will need to bring two 2-liter bottles for experiments by Friday September 18th.** We will also take our first field trip during the week of **September 21st**. Classes will visit Black Hills Regional Park. Please make sure to return a completed permission slip and the fee by Friday September 11.

In Social Studies, we will begin with the study of maps and the influences of geographical characteristics upon different cultures.

### Reading

This year, fourth graders will increase their understanding of the different **genres of literature**. In September, students will be reading books of the **fantasy** genre. We will also begin nonfiction reading. A primary goal of our reading instruction will be for students to learn to become more active readers who know how to **monitor their comprehension** and use reading strategies.

### Math

Our first unit of math covers **place value, data analysis, and geometry**. This month, students will learn to use place value through millions. Parents can help by having students practice saying and reading large numbers. Also, give children the opportunity to **recognize the real life use** of large numbers. In data analysis we will cover the use of different graph types and statistical measures. Have children practice reading graphs that they see in their daily life. **Vocabulary development** is very important for this unit, so help your child review vocabulary during homework time each night. **Please see the attached 4th and 5th grade math curricula.**

### Writing

Students will be writing **personal narratives**. They will also learn strategies for generating writing ideas, so they will be able to independently select a topic to write about.

### Fourth Grade Team

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

### Reminders

- Back to School Night is **Wednesday September 16th**.
- Look for **Data Notebooks, including Learning Skills** on Fridays
- Bring in **two empty 2 liter bottles** for science.
- 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. **Re-view**—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