

# October 2011 Newsletter

## Fourth Grade

Ronald McNair Elementary School  
"Work Hard, Be Nice, and SOAR!"



### Reading

We are completing our unit on fantasy but continuing to read novels that include fantasy elements. We are focusing on writing brief constructed responses and going back to the text for examples that support our thinking. We have just begun our unit on fables. In the fable unit, students will be able to identify character traits and character motives.

### Science and Social Studies

In Social Studies, students have begun exploring the atlas and learning how to read maps. We will also begin memorizing the location of all of the states on a map of the United States.

In Science, we will begin to construct our ecocolumns, consisting of a terrarium and aquarium in order for the students to observe the relationships between living and non-living things.

Our first field trip will take place on October 18th. We will travel to the Maryland Agricultural Extension farm in Derwood for the "Close Encounters with Agriculture" program.

### Writing

Students are completing their personal narratives in class. They used a graphic organizer to brainstorm and organize their details of a vivid memory they wanted to write about. They are using the writing process of prewriting, drafting, sharing, revising, rewriting, and publishing.

### Math

In math, we continue to learn about data analysis and how to construct various types of graphs. We will revisit and review place value through out the month, but we will begin the third focus area of geometry in the next few weeks. Students will be able to:

- 2.4.2.1 Identify, classify, and sketch acute, right and obtuse angles and relate them to real-world examples
- 2.4.1.1 Use manipulatives, pictorial representations, and appropriate vocabulary to identify and describe the attributes of solid figures
- 2.4.3.2 Draw circles, triangles, and quadrilaterals given their dimensions
- 2.4.1.2 Identify parallelism and perpendicularity of geometric figures and real world objects
- 2.4.3.1 Identify, draw, label, and describe points, lines, line segments, and rays

### Important Dates

October 6—Chik-Fil-A Night

October 7—Donuts for Dads

October 18—Close Encounters with Agriculture Field Trip

October 28 - Halloween Parties

### Fourth Grade Team

Cory Anastasi  
Aisha Bryant  
Caitlin Faunce  
Kerri Hogan  
Jessica Mollard  
Stacey Shorter

### Reminders

- 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.  
**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.