Fourth Grade Newsletter

October 7, 2009
Goshen Elementary School
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Announcements and Reminders

- Look for your child’s white Goshen Grizzly folder every Wednesday. It will have important notices and graded papers in it.
- Your child has homework every weekday night (Monday-Thursday). This could include an assignment or two in reading/language arts as well as an assignment or two in math and science. Students are also expected to read a “just right” book for 20-30 minutes nightly and record information about these books in their “Responding to Literature Log.” Students should also practice their basic math facts. Please make sure your child is completing this work and putting it back in his/her binder each night.
- Please check your child’s assignment book every night. This is where students are expected to record their nightly homework. In addition, your student’s daily behavior will be recorded in their assignment book. Please discuss your child’s behavior with him/her and sign his/her assignment book nightly.
- Every few days, help your child reorganize his/her binder, making sure that all papers are located behind the appropriate dividers.
- Please remember to keep your child’s lunch account up-to-date. Do not send money in daily. Instead, send in a check weekly, bi-weekly or monthly. Also, don’t forget to write your child’s pin number on the check!

Open House

On Monday, October 12th (Columbus Day), Goshen will hold its Open House. This is an opportunity for parents to visit the classroom, see the activities in which your child is participating, and experience the curriculum first hand. Parents are invited to visit the school in the morning between 9:30 and 11:30 and/or in the afternoon from 1:30 to 3:00. This will provide you with the opportunity to see your child in his/her writing, spelling, reading and language arts block in the morning as well as his/her math class in the afternoon. We look forward to seeing you on Monday!

Halloween Parties

All classes will hold their Halloween Parties in the afternoon of Friday, October 30th. Students are asked not to dress up in their costumes until it is time for the party and parade. To help cover the cost of the Halloween party (as well as the Valentine’s Day Party in February), we are asking all fourth grade students to contribute $4 in cash. If your child will not be participating in one of the holiday parties, then you only need to send in $2.00. Parents wishing to help out at the Halloween Party or see their child dressed up are more than welcome to attend.

October Birthdays:

- Maria Marius      10-2
- Mrs. Dominguez    10-6
- Mrs. Page         10-9
- Barbara Teta      10-10
- Reeghan Reitnauer 10-18

Upcoming Events

- October 8th - Goshen Grizzly Academy Begins
- October 12th - Open House for Parents
- October 13th - Individual Student Pictures
- October 15th - Flu Clinic for students in the Media Center
- October 16th - MSTA Convention (No School)
- October 30th - End of the 1st Marking Period
- November 2nd - Professional Day (No School for Students)
Reading

In October, students are continuing to read for literary experience. In Mrs. Dominguez and Mrs. Dickerson’s classes students will be focusing on fantasies. Fantasies are stories that require the reader to “suspend disbelief” as events that cannot occur happen in the story. In Mrs. Page and Mrs. Greenwald’s classes, students will be reading fables. Fables are a type of folklore that teaches a lesson through the actions of the main character, who is usually an animal. They also usually contain a moral.

Classes will then begin a unit on reading to be informed. Students will review text features that they have studied in previous grades and how they help good readers to locate information within a non-fiction book. We will sort the text features into four categories - print features, graphic aids, organizational aids, and illustrations - depending on its purpose. In guided reading, students will continue to reflect on what they read and write BCRs (Brief Constructed Responses) to posed questions. They will also focus on skills good readers use when working with informational texts, such as highlighting important information, summarizing, skimming, and scanning the text. The essential questions we will focus on are:

- How does fiction differ from informational text?
- What do good readers do when they read informational text?
- How do text features confirm, clarify or extend my understanding of a topic/subject?
- How is writing a summary of informational text different from writing a summary of a story?
- How does thinking about what I already know about a topic help me when I read?

Writing

Students are currently finishing their first writing piece, which was a personal narrative about a friend. Then, fourth graders will have the opportunity to write an original fable. This unit ties directly to students’ reading instruction. In writing, students will continue to take part in writing workshop which involves mini-lessons, discussions, independent writing, guided writing, conferencing, sharing, and reflecting. The essential questions for the remainder of the marking period are:

★ How can I collect ideas and find ideas and topics for my writing?
★ How can I use the feedback and suggestions I get to help me with my writing?
★ How does the organization of my writing help the reader understand my writing?
★ What strategies can I use to revise my writing to make it clear for my audience?

Spelling

Spelling will continue in guided groups. The spelling lists are differentiated for separate groups, and each group focuses on a particular spelling concept. Students will have spelling words that will come home bi-weekly, and then have activities to complete in school and home with their individual lists. Please work with your child to study their spelling words. The tests will be generally given the Friday of the second week, and will be scored based on correct spelling, as well as being placed into the correct category.
Mathematics

In October, fourth graders in Mrs. Dickerson’s, Mrs. Dominguez’s math class and Mrs. Greenwald’s math class will study geometry. Students will learn about the types of angles, differentiate between lines, line segments and rays, and name solid figures as well as their attributes. **Students will take their Unit 1 assessment at the end of October.**

- How are angles classified?
- How can objects be represented and compared using geometric attributes?
- How are points, lines, line segments, rays and angles related?
- What strategies aid in mastering multiplication and division facts?

Mrs. Page’s and Mrs. Duda’s math classes first unit focuses on whole numbers and functional relationships. Right now, students are learning about integers, patterns, and function tables. **Students will take their Unit 1 assessment towards the end of the month.** Review packets will be coming home with students in order to review for this assessment. When students begin their second unit, they will learn about plane geometry (lines, angles, polygons, and circles). The essential questions her class will focus on for this month are:

- How are graphs, tables and symbols used to represent relationships?
- What is the relationship between patterns and functions?
- How is the size of an angle related to rotation?

Science

This month, students will be busy **observing and recording the behavior of the plants and animals living within their eco-columns.** There will be opportunities to label diagrams, food chains, and food webs of the studied creatures. Students will also read and discuss articles focusing on ecosystems in order to extend their knowledge. Our focus questions for this month include:

- How are animals and plants grouped?
- What do living things need to grow and survive?
- How do organisms interact?
- What affects the survival of an organism?
- How are organisms affected by their environment?
- How do human behaviors affect the environment?

Social Studies

In the first Social Studies unit, students will continue to study the **elements of maps** (border, title, author, grid, orientation, key, scale, and date) and **different types of maps** (political, thematic, and physical). We will also continue to discuss **geographic characteristics of regions of the United States** and determine how those physical characteristics impact the culture and settlements of people in that area. Our focus questions for this unit of study include:

- How can we use geographic tools to acquire and analyze information about geographic systems?
- How do the characteristics of a region influence a population and its culture?
- How do people change their environment and what are the consequences?
Goshen’s Fourth Graders are “Going for the Green!”
Congratulations to the following students who had a “green day” for each and every day of the month of September!

From Mrs. Greenwald’s Class:
Jackie Alvarez
Sean Austin
Kevin Banner
Jasmeet Battu
Marisa Casay
Hunter Cleaver
CJ Cramma
Anjali Dhamsania
Jake Exler
Lia Haber
Joseph Hughes
Kyle Johnson
Darrell Jones
Sachi Kaur
Mathieu Landry
Matthew Luu
Jordan Odom
Bryan Pastran
Charlene Pfinayi
Meghan Robbins
Erin Swanberg
Megan Tazza
Stephanie Zamora

From Mrs. Dominguez’s Class:
Laverne Acheampong
Aaron Chin
Christian Climaco
Sean Decena
Suzy Harris
Sierra Ison
Deejay Jimenez
Timothy Johnson
Jordan Kaplan
Maryam Kushwaha
Jocelyn Martinez
Emily Morales
Topaz Morales
Yasmine Pierre
Lexi Polen
Pooja Ravi
Andrew Renehan
Sonia Rodriguez
Rebecca Selthoffer
Barbara Teta

From Mrs. Page’s Class:
Elmer Vega
Akash Dhamsania
Andrew Howe
Nathaniel Rivas
Victoria Parris
Maria Marius
Ryan Owusu
Ashley Li
Allison Hurst
Ariannah Simmons
Paulita Romero
Nick Ramlal
Charmaine Pfanyi
Jesse Majane
Reeghan Reitnauer
Kait Hughey
Zoe Welch
Alex Montella
Trenton Kneiff
Olivia Mukande

From Mrs. Dickerson’s Class:
Samantha Bartell
Connor Beaudoin
Ryan Chernosky
Lydie Diwa
Jasmine Hill
B. Jackson
Shany-Jo Kayo
Dachelle Lee
Daniel Luu
Jack Metcalfe
Valerie Morales
Salma Mowlana
Matthew Navato
Annie Nguyen
Brooke Rasavage
Vanessa Serpas
Andrea Vasquez
Eamon Vera
Jorin Vincent
Samantha Yee

Look for those students who earned all “greens” for the entire month of October in our next monthly newsletter!

We want to hear from YOU!
We would love to get feedback from you on what you like about the newsletter, what you would like to see changed, ideas you have, questions you have, etc. Please fill out the bottom of this slip and return to your child’s homeroom teacher.

Name (only needed if you would like a response): _______________________________________________________

Comment(s):
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