



4TH GRADE FLASH

Special Points of Interest:

- Please note that we can no longer issue bus passes for Bus #106 & #120.
- We will need lots of chaperones for our State Fair field trip so we would love for you to join us!
- Please remember to send in your child's Walk for Education packet at your earliest convenience! This is our only fundraiser this year, so don't forget to get involved!
- Please remind students to send in their "Gym Crew" applications to join this fun group!

Upcoming Dates:



- Oct 17: Estes Hills Family Fun Night (6:30-8:30pm)
- Oct 18: Walk for Education (9am Race, 3pm Walk & Carnival)
- Oct. 22: State Fair Field Trip
- Nov. 3-4: Teacher Workdays
- Nov. 3-14: Parent conferences
- Nov. 13-18: Scholastic Book Fair

STEPS TO RESPECT

In accordance with the Estes Hills Anti-Bullying program, the 4th grade classrooms utilize the Steps to Respect curriculum, a step-by-step toolkit which teaches children the skills they need to recognize and refuse bullying, maintain friendships, and resolve conflicts. The 11 lesson unit addresses the critical role of the bystander and emphasizes the responsibility of all members of the school community to decrease bullying. Students learn to identify and cope with bullying scenarios, through hands on, role play, which they can easily relate to real life situations.

FUN IN FRENCH

Fourth graders will begin work on a writing project, describing someone of a nationality different from their own as they incorporate grammatical concepts like adjective agreement. They will also develop presentational skills by sharing their work with the class. They are learning some facts about the European Union.



STAYING ACTIVE IN P.E.

Students have completed their fitness testing and results will be sent home at the end of the first quarter. Also, make sure you are aware of what days your student's class has P.E. so they wear the appropriate shoes! The 4th graders are also about to begin the journey of a lifetime, as they virtually walk across the U.S., in the Walk Across America fitness challenge. More to come in next month's newsletter!

CHARACTER EDUCATION

Throughout the year, fourth graders will examine various character traits, with the help of our school counselor, Ms. Jackson. The students are currently studying the trait of "Courage," and will complete various activities related to this theme. Students will also have opportunities to share personal experiences with courage, through writing and art projects. They will also study famous individuals who have demonstrated courage. This is a great thematic unit and students always responded positively!



WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE CLASSROOM?!

Math

As we head into the last couple weeks of the 1st quarter, we are wrapping up numeration, place value, and benchmark estimation concepts and we are starting a new unit on time and data. After reviewing elapsed time, students will also learn how to collect, organize, and display data in various graphs and be able to describe the distribution of data using median, range, and mode. This unit offers many opportunities for integrating problem solving techniques as well.



To culminate the data & graphing unit, students will work in small groups on a differentiated data and graphing project. This should be a fun cooperative project, incorporating technology, art, and the use of everyday mathematics concepts.

Reading

Following the Balanced Literacy model, students are learning about the routines of Reading workshop, which includes a daily mini lesson, independent reading time, and reading in small groups. We value the importance of practicing routines to support student independence in the workshop. After assessing the students on their oral reading and comprehension these past couple weeks, students will be assigned reading levels, to help teachers create their reading groups. Our daily mini lessons will focus on reading strategies and components of literature. We are currently reviewing the different genres of non fiction and fiction and learning how to select "just right" books.



Writing

We are excited that there is more flexibility this year in writing since we no longer have the N.C. Writing test! This will allow students to explore multiple genres of writing throughout the year. Currently, we are reviewing the writing process and adding "seeds" or ideas to our writing notebooks. We will focus the next couple weeks on story beginnings and the narrative structure, which includes characters, setting, problems, and solutions.



Social Studies

We will continue learning about North Carolina's geography and where North Carolina is located in the world. Students will learn how to read various types of maps, and identify locations on a map using longitude and latitude. We will spend more time during the 2nd Quarter focusing on the three regions. Students will participate in various projects to study the geographical features, locations, and agricultural resources that can be found in each region. The State Fair field trip ties in nicely with our study of North Carolina.



Science

We are still learning about Health and Nutrition, using the FOSS Science Kits. To help further student learning at home, please visit the FOSS website at <http://www.fossweb.com/modules3-6/FoodandNutrition/index.html>. Check out the parent information link for activities you can do at home! The four sequential FOSS Kit investigations help students understand what food is, what it is made of, and how several nutrient groups contribute to healthful nutrition. We will begin our unit on Animal Adaptations in the second quarter.

