

4th Grade Flash

Estes Hills Elementary

Volume 1, Issue 6

March 2009



Upcoming Events & Reminders:

March 14: School Beautification Day (12-3pm)

March 19: 2 hour delayed opening

March 26: Science Night (6-8pm)

April 6-10: Spring Break

Special Guest

On Wednesday, 4th and 5th graders welcomed Juanita Palmer and her husband, Dr. E.B. Palmer. In celebration of the school's 50th anniversary, Palmer and her husband shared their long and historic career in public education and African American culture with students.

As the first African American teacher in the then all-white Chapel Hill school system in the 1960s, Juanita Palmer knows first hand about making history. We were all very excited to have such important leaders in our school!

Special Congratulations to 4th graders who competed in the Regional Odyssey of the Mind Competition on March 8th:

Emma Garval
Kees Benkendorfer
Erin Little
Milana Zuco
Sienna Zuco
Ryan Pecaut
Rose Newell
Sam Billings
Clara Breeden
Fiona Lane



March Learning Madness!

Reading & Writing


4th graders continue to learn about the various genres of literature, including a focus on the features of non-fiction and biography/autobiography. Small reading groups enjoy Junior Great books and various novels, allowing them to make personal connections and insightful interpretations of complex texts. In writing, students are reviewing techniques for revising and editing narratives, with a focus on conventions.

Math

Students continue to practice problem solving on a regular basis and are wrapping up a unit on fractions. Lessons on probability offer additional practice with fractions and data analysis. In the next few weeks, students will develop fluency with addition and subtraction of non-negative rational numbers with like denominators, including decimal fractions through hundredths.

We are also working on writing in math, as a useful way to teach new math concepts, reexamine established math practices, and to assess the depth and range of student comprehension.

Science

We are starting our next unit on magnetism and electricity, using the science FOSS  kits. Students will conduct investigations to build an understanding of magnets and electricity. The first few investigations allow students to examine properties of magnets and how magnetism is used to generate electricity. After identifying the relationship between magnetism and electricity, students will begin building and testing electric circuits.

Social Studies


Our field trip to the Chapel Hill Museum provided an excellent way for students to learn about the history of our state and the story of the Lost Colony and European immigration into the United States. 4th graders will continue to examine the impact of various cultural groups in North Carolina and study the role of prominent persons, past and present.

Spectacular Specials

FRENCH

French declamation was a huge success with Estes Hills students placing in all three competitions! Be sure to celebrate 4th graders Anne Whitesal (1st place) and Sidharth Sirdeshmakh (3rd place) in the reciting of the Surrealist poem, La Fourmi by Robert Desnos. Students continue to learn about French culture as we move into the importance of fashion, and weather. Look for the friendly competition, French Factor, coming to a classroom near you!

ART

Students are weaving designs based on the weaving from Oaxaca, Mexico. Their designs include three different types of weaving including tabby, tapestry split,  dovetail and beading. Donations of yarn (especially purple) would help add variety in color and texture to this unit of study.