

Two KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTERS COPIED AND PASTED FROM EMAILS; Writing highlighted

KS October 3, 2015

Dear KS Families,

It was so nice to see so many of you on Monday evening! I hope you enjoyed learning about the kindergarten experience. I am looking forward to a wonderful year ahead.

We had a busy week in school as it was our first uninterrupted week! In math, we studied the numbers 0, 1, 2 and 3. The children practiced writing the numerals and determining the missing number in a sequence. We began to discuss what an equation (number sentence) is and what it represents.

In Foundations, we learned about the lowercase letters n (n-nut-/n/) and m (m-man-/m/). The children did a great job forming the letters correctly. We also read a story called Echo Finds Dinner. The children practiced identifying the characters, setting, problem and solution. They also noticed how the main character's feelings changed from the beginning of the story to the end of the story.

In writing workshop, we have been focusing on drawing representational pictures. We practiced thinking of something that happened to us and then drawing the setting as realistically as possible. We tried to include the time of day and weather in our drawings if the story took place outside. After, the children drew pictures of all of the characters (the people that were with them during that moment in time). We learned how to draw people through a song about Mat Man. Mat Man encourages the children to draw realistically and include all of the body parts.

In reading workshop, we continued to build our reading stamina independently and with buddies. The children practiced noticing details and rereading. We discussed our favorite parts and explained why they were our favorites.

In science, we continued to learn about our five senses. We read a nonfiction book about our eyes and then studied our eyes with mirrors. The children recorded their observations on paper using oil pastels and labeled the parts of their eye. We also learned about optical illusions and created thaumatropes.

We completed our October self-portraits. The children used crayons this month for their drawings. Their self-portraits are hanging in the classroom. We continued to learn about ourselves and each other through the star child activities. The children have become more familiar with the routine and they are leading the activities more independently. It is always exciting to see the star child's reaction when he/she finds out that he/she was selected! We went to Mrs. Rivera's office, the school nurse, and interviewed her about her job. After, the children drew pictures of her office and what she looks like.

Have a great weekend!

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Alissa

December 4, 2015

# KR News

December 4th

## The last 2 weeks we...

- Learned the letters j, l, and h. We practiced writing the letters and identifying the sounds that they make (j-jug-/j/, l-lamp-/l/, and h-hat-/h/). Can your child tell you the sounds, a word that begins with the letters, and write the letters for you?
- Added the words “in” and “it” to the Word Wall.
- Continued to read our “just right” books. The children have been practicing pointing to the first letter of each word and looking for words that they know. Each child was given a word ring with our Word Wall words so that they can warm up each day before reading. We introduced Eagle Eye as a reading strategy. Eagle Eye reminds us to look at the pictures to help us read words we don’t know.
- Continued working on our 3 page stories. The children have been focusing on listening for as many sounds as they can in each word which will make their writing easier to read.
- Started a new unit in math on measurement where we have been comparing lengths using the words taller than, shorter than, or longer than.
- Learned how to count up to 15 the “Say Ten Way”. 11 is 10-1, 12 is 10-2, etc. Ask your child to show you how we do our Say Ten push ups.
- Observed our class tree again. The children noticed that all of the leaves had fallen off. We made a list of all of the foods that we know that come from trees.
- Enjoyed a Thanksgiving Feast together. We went around the table and each child said what they were thankful for.
- Made our December self portraits.



## Third Grade Newsletter

### October 2, 2015

#### Writers Write Stories about Their Lives

In Writer's Workshop, students are collecting story ideas based on experiences in their lives. In our first unit, students will write a personal narrative based on a true story. This week, we practiced multiple writing strategies to help brainstorm ideas: make a list, draw a sketch, and create a word cluster. Next week, your child will develop watermelon (big ideas) and seed ideas (focused ideas). Ask your child what strategy he/she enjoys and what events have been collected thus far.

\*You will be receiving information regarding our upcoming residency with the Pelham Picture House. The students will enhance their first writing piece through various acting activities on stage! Please keep an eye out for the permission slip.

#### Reader's Workshop

*What is reading?* This is the question we are discussing in Reader's Workshop. We collectively agreed that *reading is thinking!* We have begun to discuss strategies good readers use, and our first was finding a good time and place to read. Students chose times and places they like to read at home, and we discussed how this will help them with their nightly reading homework. This week, students also practiced choosing a just-right book while browsing in the classroom library. This strategy will be on-going in the coming weeks, while students get to know themselves better as readers.

#### Geography

In Social Studies, we began our unit on geography. We focused on the continents and oceans. Next week, they will study and take their first quiz on where the continents and oceans are located. The students have participated in various activities using both our maps and globes, while learning the important differences between the two and their representation of the world. Next week, students will use our student Atlas books to complete various mapping activities.

#### Math

In math, students have been reviewing place value. We have been strengthening their mental math skills for both addition and subtraction. We will continue to practice estimating sums and differences to find the reasonableness of an answer. Students are expected to know how to round to the nearest ten and hundred.

#### Science

What does a healthy meal look like? Students are beginning to learn about nutrition as well as the food groups. Next week, students will record the foods they eat and will sort out foods into food groups. Students will then analyze their diets. Students will also begin to examine food labels and nutrients. Please don't be alarmed if your child begins to examine the foods in your pantry!

#### Cursive Handwriting

We have begun our cursive handwriting program. Students practiced writing the lowercase letters "c" and "a." Next will be "d" and "g," as the program groups letters together by the pattern of their formation. They learned that in cursive there are "connecting lines" which help students connect from one letter to the next. Students are very excited to continue this program.

#### Reminders:

\*Thank you for supporting your third grader with nightly homework. Make sure to check the planner and help your child keep track of his/her assignments and materials.

\*Today your child has brought home the first Friday Folder. As a reminder, this collection of work is to be discussed with your child. We hope it helps you better understand what we are working on in class. We also hope it empowers your child to show off their work and discuss strategies and concepts with you at home. Please review the work, place all of the contents back, and return the folder by **next Friday**.

Have a great weekend!

~The Third Grade Team

# 4th Grade News & Notes

December 7, 2015

## General Information

- **Parent-Teacher Conferences**—Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>=NO SCHOOL
- **Delayed Opening**—Tuesday, December 15th
- **Concert Dress Rehearsal**—Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>; **Winter Concert**—Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, both @ 9:15 am
- **Solstice Celebration**—Tuesday, December 22nd-10:30 am-12 noon
- **Holiday Sing**—Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>-2:15 pm in the gym

## EXPANDING VOCABULARY

Learning new words and applying them in an appropriate context is a lifelong skill. Together, discover the definition of the word below and try to use it in your daily language.

**Word of the Week: Develop**

## HOW CAN I SUPPORT MY CHILD?

<b>Reading</b>	Reference texts, such as atlases and rhyming dictionaries, make great holiday gifts
<b>Writing</b>	Reinforce our summary writing by asking your child to orally sum up, for example, a movie or an outing you've shared
<b>Math</b>	Point out and identify by name the different triangles you encounter in the world; do the same for images or structures with line symmetry
<b>Science</b>	Plan your own solstice rituals and traditions
<b>SS</b>	Since we'll introduce latitude and longitude in connection with our study of explorers, share the coordinates of places you visit as a family

## Parent Child Conference



**DUE: 12 – 18 - 15**

Over the next week, talk to your parent(s) about what you are learning in school. Check off each item after you complete your conversation. Please have a parent sign at the bottom of the page, indicating that he/she has taken time to discuss these items with you.

- Show on the back how to solve:  $9684 \div 4$ . Explain what you're doing each step of the way, and why. Then, check your quotient
- Describe the two ways the Earth moves and the effects of each.
- Identify the various European explorers who sailed to our continent and why each came.
- Share your goals for our second trimester AND the steps you'll take to achieve them.
- Identify the point of view in your independent fiction book.
- Describe your narrative rubric and how you planned your story.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Comment about what you learned (optional):

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Thanks for reading! – Mrs. Friedberg & Mrs. Sider ☺

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_\_\_

# How do you solve $9684 \div 4$ ?

1 <sup>st</sup> Strategy	2 <sup>nd</sup> Strategy

**CHECK YOUR PRODUCT WITH MULTIPLICATION:**

☺ Test out your division facts at:

[http://www.mathplayground.com/ASB\\_DragRaceDivision.html](http://www.mathplayground.com/ASB_DragRaceDivision.html)

December 4, 2015



We wish you all a happy and fun-filled holiday break!  
Our next issue will be in 2016!



Jive With Grade Five  
Winter Edition

### CONVERSATION STARTERS

*Engage your parent(s) in conversation on a variety of topics relating to your experience as a fifth grader.*

*Parents, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to jot your thoughts on the back of this page or send us an e-mail*

- What is the Columbian Exchange?
- Share the vocabulary you are learning about the circulatory system.
- Explain what a DBQ is and how you write one.
- Talk about a post-it you have written recently while reading.
- Talk about what a serve, a bump, and a spike are in volleyball.
- Kathy uses  $2 \frac{5}{9}$  pounds of flour to make cookies. She uses  $\frac{5}{6}$  pounds more of flour than Dana uses. How many pounds of flour does Dana use?
- Explain what an idiom is and use one correctly in a sentence.
- If necessary, practice your multiplication and division facts. You need to know them fluently.

### EXPANDING VOCABULARY

Learning new words/phrases and applying them in an appropriate context is a lifelong skill.

Word(s) of the Week:  
Festivities  
Theme

### IMPORTANT INFO

- ✧ No School, **Wednesday, December 9** for Parent Teacher Conferences.
- ✧ Delayed start, **Tuesday, December 15** for Staff Development.
- ✧ Winter concert, **Thursday, December 17** at 9:15 am.
- ✧ Holiday Sing Along – **Tuesday, December 22** at 2:15.
- ✧ Winter Break  
**December 24 – January 4.**

