

# Fourth Grade News

October 2009

## October News

Leaves are changing and the temperature is plummeting; fall is here! Please have students bring or leave a jacket at school. It is hard to maintain the temperature in the building as the weather jumps up and down, and the temps at recess are different everyday. A spare jacket will help students be prepared for colder temperatures in the classroom and at recess.

Our newsletter will be available via the website on the first Friday of every month. If for some reason you need a hard copy please let us know, and we would be glad to print one off and send it home in your child's Friday Folder.

As always please feel free to email or call us with any questions.

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## Language Arts and Literacy

We are excited to start jumping into our new reading basal, Harcourt. This text offers paired reading within each weekly lesson, which provides a great opportunity to study different genres. This is something that fourth graders will be tested on during several assessments this year. Please help your child to apply their knowledge about genres by asking them not only what they are reading, but what genre of book; they should be able to tell you!

**Students should be reading at least ten minutes night!**

Students have taken their first district writing practice. They were scored the last week of September, so hopefully we will have the results in time for parent teacher conferences. We will continue to practice narrative writing each week.

## Math

We will continue to work on number sense. Students have reviewed place-value, rounding, and ordering numbers. We are now ready to use those skills to start multiplying single and double-digit numbers.

We will then start working on standard 4-06 interpreting and organizing data. Within this unit we will work on many projects and hand on activities to prepare us for our first CRT.

I am also excited to announce that Columbian has been selected to pilot a new math program called, *Math in Focus, The Singapore Approach*. Materials are starting to arrive and we hope to start using it soon.

**Be sure to check out the website for links to some great resources! Students should be studying their flash cards every night.**

## Social Studies

Our first unit went very well! I am pleased to say that 70% of the fourth graders passed their first ever social studies test with a proficient or an advanced! Thank you so much for your help at home. And if your child did not earn a passing score on this first assessment, remember, it was the VERY FIRST time your child has ever had to:

- 1) Study from a textbook
- 2) Take notes to review
- 3) Take this type of test

We will only get better at social studies assessments, I promise! Use this first test as a learning opportunity to help your child understand how to review and study social studies.

This month, our focus will be the history and culture of the Native Americans on the Plains during the 16th & 17th centuries. We will be using Chapter 4 in textbook, as well as our experience at the 5th Annual Indian/Native American Education Days to cover this subject. **Your child should be bringing home their social studies book every night.**

CRT 401A: Culture will be given on October 20 & 21. Watch for a review sheet to come home Friday, October 16 so that you can help your child be their most successful on this very difficult assessment.

## Upcoming Events

Wenninghoff's  
**October 13th**

1st Quarter Ends  
**October 16th**

Parent Teacher Conferences  
**October 21 and 22**

No School  
**October 22 and 23**

Halloween Party  
**October 30**

## I-Pick

### Good-Fit Books

**I** choose a book  
**P**urpose-Why?  
**I**nterest  
**C**omprehend  
**K**now the words