

November 30, 2012
Newsletter
Ms. Rechtfertig's 4th Grade

Coloma Outdoor School

Our fourth graders had a wonderful time at Coloma and this experience always represents a milestone. The various team-building activities unify the class, while bringing history alive. Thank you to all of the parent chaperones who accompanied our group.



The Writing Program

The class is currently learning to summarize informational text. For this skill, students find main ideas and significant supporting details in nonfiction selections. They learn to identify and leave out the less important details. They combine sentences, condense text, and paraphrase information in their own words.

All students were first guided through an initial summary of "Beavers." Then they began working, at their own pace and with my guidance and input, through a specific sequence of selections - "Octopuses," "Sedimentary Rock," "Galleon Ships," and "Kites."

After every summary, students complete a rubric to assess their own work. Please look for examples of your student's summaries in today's Friday folder. We will work on summary writing throughout December, so additional examples will continue to come home.

Book Report

There is a new Book Report assignment coming home in today's Friday folder. When you think you have found a suitable book, you can check the Lexile number at Lexile.com. It is best for students to read books that are neither too hard nor too easy for them.

Report Cards Next Friday

Report cards will be going home next Friday, December 6th. In your child's Friday folder, please look for recent assessments of your child's progress.

SRA Reading Laboratory

Fourth grade now has an SRA Reading Laboratory to provide students with self-paced reading comprehension intervention activities. Several students began participating in this program this week.

Try to stay dry,
Ms. Rechtfertig



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