

Newsletter for Ms. Rechtfertig's Fourth Grade

October 12, 2012



Class Overview in Preparation for Next Week's Conferences

The children have made great progress during the first months of school in all areas of fourth grade.

They are all succeeding with class systems that include a Work Folder for organizing assignments, and a "Pouch" for storing various tools needed throughout the day.

They are becoming responsible for maintaining tidy desk areas, completing daily homework assignments, and being responsible for library books and instruments.

Written Composition: The writing program is now fully customized. Every student completed the first essay project, "California! Coming to a New Land." Hopefully, you have had the chance to read over this essay which I sent home earlier this week (I still am scoring a few essays that I will show parents next week, at the conference.) Currently, students are writing stories at their own pace with my guidance and class mini-lessons, as needed. They are completing self-assessments using the Narrative Rubric.

Mathematics: Students have learned data analysis, place value, geometry, problem solving, addition, and subtraction. Some students have met the benchmark (at least 90 problems out of one hundred correct in six minutes) for both multiplication and division. But most students need to work toward this goal. The "green" math group continues to have additional daily accelerated challenges.

Reading: My greatest teaching challenge has been helping all students to become successful with upper grade reading comprehension - particularly in Social Studies and Science. I have been providing differentiated instruction, on a daily basis, and staying in close communication with parents in this regard. I have been giving students extra chances to take assessments, as needed. Those students who need an extra challenge have begun an accelerated Literature Circle group for the novel, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. (All students will soon begin Literature Circles.)

Science and Social Studies: Students have completed their first units in both subjects and have taken their initial assessments. To assist with the transition to more challenging content area reading, students began by reading and studying informational packets that presented the information in a more straightforward manner than the books. However, for the second units, the students are now all successfully reading and studying from their texts. Over, please -->

Halloween

This year, we will have the Halloween parade first thing in the morning at 8:30am. So, your student may wear his/her costume to school. (Costumes are optional.) There will be an opportunity to change back to school clothes following the parade. Please remember that there are no masks, or pretend weapons of any kind, allowed.



The party will begin at about 11:00 am, and continue until lunchtime. Thank you to Robyn Juarez for organizing the party, and to all parents who will be participating in helping to make it fun.

Our Next Book Report

Please find the next book report, for biography, in the Friday folder. The class enjoyed the wide variety of books chosen during our initial book report presentations this week.

Coloma

If you have not yet paid the Coloma donation or returned the Medical Form, please do so as soon as possible. (Some parents have let me know that there will be a delay. Thank you.)

If your student will not be attending Coloma, please let us know as soon as possible.

Welcome to Our New Student

Welcome to Nya, who has now joined our class as our 27th student. Nya and her family have moved to Marin from the Los Angeles area.

