

February 8, 2013

Dear Parents,

Since the beginning of the school year, your student has worked hard to learn new written composition skills for Narratives, Summaries, and (most recently) Responses to Literature. Each student works through a progression of writing assignments at his/her own individual pace. Students receive whole group instruction and one-on-one assistance each day, during the 30-45 minute writing periods.



On Tuesday, March 5th, your student will take this year's California Writing Standards Test, a challenging experience for a 4th grader. During this STAR test, all California 4th graders undertake a writing challenge for one of the three writing genres, but no one knows ahead of time which genre will be tested. Students have about one hour to read over and understand the prompt (the writing task,) to plan what to write, and to complete a multiple-paragraph essay without the use of dictionaries, thesauruses, or adult assistance. You will learn your child's test score in the 2013 STAR Parent Report which will be mailed to you.

Between now and March 5th, students are reviewing all three writing genres as a final preparation for the STAR test. They are also doing somewhat longer writing sessions about once each week. Please continue to check the Friday folder for your student's completed essays graded like this: 4 (Excellent;) 3 (Good and Satisfactory;) 2 (Not Meeting all Benchmarks;) and 1 (Improvement Needed.)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you very much,
Mary Ann Rechtsfertig

