

Ms. Drummer's 4TH Grade Monthly Dish

April 20th, 2015

Volume 5, Issue 8

From Ms. Drummer's Desk

Dear Families,

Happy Spring!! The weather is warming up and the students are very excited. I know that this time of year is when many students are involved in several extracurricular activities. However, please make sure that your child is completing their homework each night. It is an expectation that all children come to school prepared everyday.

Thank you to Ms. Simoneau (Alex's mom), Mrs. Casarella (Rosa's mom), and Mr. Robertson (Micah's uncle) for volunteering their time last week as chaperones. Educators from the Leslie Science and Nature Center hosted our class along with Mrs. Archer's class for our Island Park field trip. Students had the opportunity to test the water quality of the Huron River, and sort macro-organisms into different categories. One of our groups even found a crayfish! This field trip goes along with our Watery Earth science unit.

Today our class went on our Water Tour. As part of our Watery Earth science unit we visited the Portage-Baseline Lakes Waste Water Treatment Plant, the Loch Alpine Waste Water Treatment Plant, Barton Dam, and the Ann Arbor Water Treatment Plant. We had lunch along the Huron River at Dexter-Huron Metropark. We learned about water usage, wastewater, and the treatment of water. Thank you to Ms. Pedigo (Cecilia's mom) for volunteering her time as a chaperone! Our class received several compliments from our district Environmental Specialist! Please ask your Cougar about what they enjoyed the most!

Next week begins our first week of M-STEP testing. Students will take the test in the following subject areas: Mathematics, English Language Arts, and Science. **It is imperative that your child arrives to school on time. Some of the testing will begin first thing in the morning.** The majority of the test will be completed online in the computer lab. **Please encourage your child to receive a good night's rest, eat a healthy breakfast, and to do his/her personal BEST!** If you have any comments, questions, and or concerns about the testing please let me know.

In regard to classroom donations, our classroom is in need of pencils, and post-it notes. Thank you to all of the parents who contribute to our classroom.

Just as a friendly reminder, please remember to contact the school office if your child should be absent. If your child has an appointment and will be late to school please contact the office.

As always, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Your Child's Very Dedicated Teacher,
Ms. Drummer

Mark Your Calendar!

4/20:

Environmental
Education Field
Trip; 9:20-2:20

4/21-4/23:

Scholastic Book
Fair

4/23: Korean

Immersion
Concert/Potluck
@5:30-7

4/24: Parent Input

Forms Due

4/29: M-STEP

MATH (1:10-3:30)

4/30: M-STEP

MATH (1:10-2:30)

5/1: M-STEP

MATH (9:30-
11:30)

5/6: M-STEP ELA

(1:10-3:30)

5/7: M-STEP ELA

(1:10-2:30)

5/8: M-STEP ELA

(9:30-11:30)

5/8: M-STEP

Science Part 1
(1:10-3:00)


5/8: M-STEP


Science Part 2
(1:10-3:30)



Curriculum Highlights

The Book Nook I would like to congratulate Ezra, Raja, and Brianna for “Reading Their Heart Out!” during the Pizza Hut Book-IT Program that ran from October through March! These three students consistently participated in the program, and met the reading goal each month! Please encourage your child to read a “just right” reading book for at least 20 minutes per day! Your child should also be reading both fiction and nonfiction books. During guided reading we will continue reading nonfiction/informational texts! Students will continue to read “just right” books during independent reading, and write weekly reading response letters about their independent reading!

The Pencil Is Mightier  We are currently finishing our Research/Biography Projects. Last week students began drafting different introductions and conclusions for their biographies. Students have also been finishing their body paragraphs by summarizing the notes from their research. This week students will work on crafting titles for their biographies, before they begin revising and editing their rough drafts. Students will publish their biographies by typing their final drafts. Poetry will be our final writing unit in which students will use mentor poems to write their own “I AM FROM” poem.

Sum News  This week in math we will continue Unit 8: Area and Perimeter. Students will take the math test next week. Then we will begin Unit 9: Percents, Decimals, and Fractions. One of the skills that students will learn is how to multiply and divide decimals by whole numbers. Please refer to the Unit 9 Family Letter that will be sent home. As always, please encourage, and support your child in mastering their basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts. The end of the year goal is for all students to be secure in their quick recall of these basic facts. Please also encourage your child to utilize everydaymathonline.com outside of school.

The World Around Us



For the remainder of the school year we will be studying our Watery Earth science unit! A family letter introducing our unit was sent home last week. During our first lesson students had the opportunity to share their experiences with water, while also thinking about what our lives might be like without water. In our next cluster of lessons we learn about how all living things use water, where water can be found on earth, and then begin learning about what happens to a drop of rain once it hits the surface of the earth. In addition, we will continue with our study of the regions of the U.S. as part of our *Social Studies Alive!* Curriculum. Our last region of study will be the West region.

HAPPY, HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

• Micah 4-9

