

Ms. Drummer's 4TH Grade Monthly Dish

May 11th, 2015

Volume 5, Issue 9

From Ms. Drummer's Desk

Dear Families,

We have been extremely busy completing our M-Step testing. We have completed three parts of the Math, and English Language Arts test. This week during our third week of testing, students will complete part 1 and part 2 of the M-Step Science Test. Students who have been absent for any portion of the M-Step will complete the test during a makeup testing session. **A VERY HUGE "Thank you!" to Mrs. Powell (Brianna's mom) for providing our class with several healthy snacks throughout our M-Step Testing!**

Next week our class will take the NWEA Math and Reading Tests. Please encourage your child to receive a good night's rest, eat a healthy breakfast, and to give each test their **BEST** effort! There will be a makeup session for students who are absent during testing.

I cannot believe how fast this year is going by! It has been a Carpenter tradition for a while now for all 3rd and 4th grade classes to visit the Rolling Hills Water Park to celebrate a wonderful, hardworking year. This trip will be on **Friday, May 22nd**. With that said, I would also like to note that this trip is for students that have completed **all of their work** for the school year along with following our **Carpenter Behavior Plan (PBIS)**. Students have been made aware of their missing assignments and have until **Wednesday, May 20th** to turn in any incomplete or missing assignments. You will be contacted if your child is unable to attend the trip due to any missing assignments or if there are any behavior concerns. If you have any questions, feel free to call me at the school or send me an e-mail. **Thank you for your support and understanding!**

Today your child will bring home a permission slip for Rolling Hills. In past years, we have asked for **\$5.00** per student to purchase a pizza lunch to eat in their classrooms when we get back from Rolling Hills. Students are also expected to bring a large morning snack to eat prior to us entering the waterpark, as food is not allowed inside the waterpark. **We will leave school at 9:45am and return to school at 2:00pm.** If you would like to chaperone please note that it is a waterpark rule that parents cannot bring other children. Parent chaperones will need to drive separately, as there is not enough space on the buses.

In regard to classroom donations, our classroom is in need of pencils, Kleenex, and hand sanitizer. Thank you to all of the parents who contribute to our classroom.

Lastly, our class will host the African American Wax Museum tomorrow, Tuesday, May 12th from 2:00pm to 3:00pm in the Multipurpose Room. **Please make sure that your child has any clothes, props, or artifacts that they need to change into for the museum. Each child will need to bring in a container to collect coins. Please bring your coins to the Wax Museum to learn about these historic figures!**

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!

5/8: M-STEP
Science Part 1 & 2
(9:30am-11:
30am)

5/12: African
American Wax
Museum; MPR;
(2:00pm: 3:00pm)

5/18: NWEA
Reading Test (2p-
3p)

5/20: NWEA Math
Test (1p-2) p

5/22: Rolling Hills
(9:45am-2pm)

5/25: No School-
Memorial Day

5/27: NWEA
Makeup Testing
(1:30pm-2: 30pm)

5/28: 4th Grade
Recorder Concert
(2:45pm-3: 30pm)

5/29: Field Day;
Grades 3-5
(1:30pm-3: 30pm)

6/5: Carpenter
Carnival (5p-8p)

6/12: Last day of
school; Half day;
Report cards go
home

Curriculum Highlights



The Book Nook

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! **Please note that the end of the year reading target for fourth grade is a level R. I will begin end of the year reading assessments as we complete our NWEA testing.**

The Pencil Is Mightier



In preparation for our African American Wax Museum students have been writing a short speech that summarizes the life of the famous individual that they researched for their project. Using the school laptops, many students have published the final draft of their research/biography project. The biographies will be displayed in the hallway outside of our classroom! Next week we will begin poetry, which is our last unit of writing for the school year. We will look closely at mentor poems to learn about characteristics of poetry such as stanzas, rhyme, line breaks, white space, personification, and repetition. Students will have the opportunity to identify their own mentor poems to guide them as they begin crafting their own “I AM FROM” poem.

Sum News



This week in math we will continue Unit 9: Fractions, Decimals, and Percents. As we complete Unit 9 students will practice multiplying and dividing decimals up to two decimal places by a one-digit whole number. Next, we will begin Unit 10, which focuses on students recognizing rigid motion transformations of two-dimensional objects, and line symmetry. 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 and Xtra Math outside of school.

The World Around Us



We are in the midst of our Watery Earth science unit. So far we have investigated what happens when water falls on different surfaces. We have learned that all living things need water to survive, and discussed the ways in which humans and other living organisms use water. We have also learned about different bodies of surface water, and how much water is found in oceans. Last week we set up groundwater models to investigate what happens to water when it percolates through the layers of the earth and ends up in an underground aquifer. In the coming weeks we will learn about frozen water, water in the air, and the water cycle. Towards the end of our science unit we will learn about water pollution and ways to protect and conserve water!

In addition, we will continue studying the regions of the U.S. as part of our *Social Studies Alive!* Curriculum. We are currently exploring our last U.S. region, the West region. We have identified some geographical features, and important landmarks in the West region. Now we are taking a closer look at some of the cities of the West region, and thinking about what it is about those cities that continue to attract people to the West region.

HAPPY, HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



- Kywrin 5/4
- Mohamad 5/10
- Xavier 5/12
- Zander 5/14
- Brianna 5/18