

Ms. Drummer's Monthly Dish

September 22, 2014

Mark Your Calendar!

9/23: NWEA Math; 9-11

9/24: SRI (Scholastic Reading Inventory)

9/25: NWEA Reading; 1:15-3:15

9/25: FUN RUN; 10-10:30

9/25: FUN RUN Back to School Night at Chuck E. Cheese; 4-8

9/26: Scholastic Book Order Due!

10/1: Picture Day & Count Day! ☺

10/14: PTO Meeting; 6:30; Library

10/21: Parent Teacher Conferences 4p-7p

10/29: Parent Teacher Conferences 4p-7p

11/3: Parent Teacher Conferences 4p-7p

11/6: Parent Teacher Conferences 4p-7p

Dear Families,

Our school year is off to a fantastic start!! I have enjoyed getting to know the students and meeting so many parents. I look forward to working with each of you as we progress through the rest of the school year! If you were not able to attend Curriculum Night, you should have received a Curriculum Night Parent Folder that was distributed during the classroom presentation. I strongly encourage all parents to thoroughly read through all of the materials that I have provided. If you have any questions, and or concerns about any of the materials included in your folder, please do not hesitate to contact me!

At Curriculum Night, parents had the opportunity to sign up for a Parent Teacher Conference. It is imperative that we meet during the fall, prior to the end of the November marking period. Please feel free to stop by our classroom in the morning, during lunch, or at the end of the school day to sign up for a conference. You may also email me, and I can share the available time slots. If your conference has not been scheduled by September 30th I will contact you to schedule our conference. If there are any scheduling conflicts, I am more than happy to arrange a time that works best for your availability.

I have provided each student with a red, two-pocket folder for homework, and other school-home communication. It is expected that each student bring their folder, homework, and other necessary materials to school each day. Homework is always due the following day, unless otherwise noted on their Weekly Homework Assignment Sheet. Please check to make sure that your child has completed their assignments for the appropriate day prior to signing their Weekly Homework Assignment Sheet. If homework is not turned in the following day or on the appropriate due date, then students have an additional day to return their homework. If the homework is still not returned, then homework is completed during lunch recess. This does not

include students who may have had an absence. If at anytime you need clarification on what assignments are to be completed, please contact me. Homework teaches students responsibility, time management, and commitment. Making sure that your child completes their homework helps them in and outside the classroom. Thank you for your support and cooperation with ensuring that your child meets these expectations.

Since the first week of school our classroom has received a generous amount of classroom donations! Thank you to all who have donated these supplies! I am extremely grateful for your generosity and thoughtfulness! ☺

As we begin the school year there are assessments that students will be taking over the next several weeks. Please encourage your child to receive a good night's rest, eat a healthy breakfast, and give each test their best effort!! ☺

Please know that our classroom is NUT FREE. I ask that you carefully select healthy and nut free snacks for your child to eat during morning snack time in our classroom.

I would like to share that Mr. Brooks is a Teacher Assistant who will be in our classroom this year. We are very excited to welcome him to Carpenter!

Lastly, our classroom website is still under construction, and I will let families know when it is up and running. I will still provide a paper copy of news and announcements as needed for parents who have made that request.

I'm confident that we will have a fun, and successful school year! I am fortunate to work with a diverse group of learners. If you have any questions, comments, and or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Educationally Yours,

Ms. Drummer

drummerla@aaps.k12.mi.us

Curriculum Highlights



The Book Nook During the first few weeks of school, we have spent a good amount of time in class discussing and reviewing how to make good book choices for independent reading. As a class we created a chart that distinguishes the difference between books that are easy, difficult, and just right. One strategy that we encourage students to use as a general rule of thumb when selecting just right reading books is the Five Finger Test. I have provided a bookmark that includes the directions for using the Five Finger Test. Please encourage your child to use this test when selecting reading books to read outside of school. As we continue to move forth with our reading curriculum, all individual reading assessments will be completed by the end of this week, and we will begin discussing strategies that strong readers use to understand what they're reading. We will also transition into guided reading groups. Students are assessed again in November prior to the end of the first marking period. The November assessment will be used for marking the fall report card. In fourth grade the reading level target for November is level P.

In fourth grade most students transition from "learning to read" to "reading to learn." As a way for students to become life long readers who read for enjoyment, I have enrolled our class in the Pizza Hut Book It Reading Program. This program runs from October through March. Each month a different reading goal is set. Participation is optional, but strongly encouraged. Your child will receive a calendar each month to track their reading. The reading calendar should have a parent signature and be returned to school on the appropriate due date. Please encourage your child to strongly consider participating! All students are expected to read a just right reading book for at least 20 minutes each night.

The Pencil Is Mightier



Students have already completed their first writing piece. Their wonderful Alphabetical Autobiographies are displayed in the hallway outside our classroom! This week we will begin our first writing genre, Personal Narratives. We will spend time in class studying mentor texts to learn about the qualities of this writing genre. Then students will begin generating ideas for their own personal narrative, based upon small yet important moments in their lives.



Sum News

We are off and running with our math curriculum! Math homework is usually given on a nightly basis to reinforce the skills and concepts taught in class. Students should give their best effort in completing as much of the math homework as possible. At Curriculum Night I spoke about everydaymathonline.com. This is a wonderful resource that should be used at home when supporting your child with homework. The website includes videos of traditional and alternative algorithms, pages from the student reference book that align with homework, and math games that build key skills. Please note that we review homework as a whole class each day. After the math homework has been checked together in class, it is collected, recorded, then returned to the student to place in their Homework Folder, and keep at home.

Curriculum Highlights continued...



Sum News

This week we will take our Unit 1 math test. In Unit 1: Naming and Constructing Geometric Figures, we studied parallel lines, perpendicular lines, intersecting lines, line segments, rays, and angles. This unit also covered properties of polygons. To reinforce these concepts and compliment the math unit, each student will complete a Geometry Map Project! This assignment will be completed at home. Parental supervision is strongly encouraged. However, your child must complete this project. It would be helpful to assist your child with time management and to ensure that they complete all of the requirements. The students will have the opportunity to share their projects in class and then I will display them in the hallway! Please make sure that your child brings their completed final project to school on **Friday, October 31st**. If for any reason your child will need a poster board donated to them to complete the project, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am looking forward to seeing the students display their knowledge and creativity! I will send home the specific details of the Geometry Map assignment this Friday.

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!

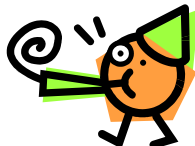
The World Around Us



Last week we began our

Nature's Recyclers science unit! Students shared their personal definitions of waste, and examples of waste. We discussed the difference between human made waste such as aluminum cans, and natural waste like twigs from a tree. In another lesson, students explored the natural process of decomposition by organizing the correct sequence of a decomposing bison and a tree. This week our red worms are expected to arrive! We will set up our worm bin, and begin exploring the organisms that clean up nature's waste!

HAPPY, HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!
September Birthday



- Rosa 9/23

"Tell me and I'll forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I'll understand."
-Chinese Proverb



