



Dear Parents,

Thursday, September 15th

Welcome to 4<sup>th</sup> grade! This is our first newsletter of the year. Please look for this letter to come home on a bi-weekly basis along with the Thursday folder. This information can also be viewed on our school website under the 4<sup>th</sup> grade section.

It was so nice to see and meet so many of you at the parent information session last Thursday. If you were unable to attend one of the sessions, an information packet highlighting the topics covered should have come home with your child this week.

Please be sure to read the attached handouts (both sides) as they contain important information about upcoming classroom activities as well as information about our discipline policy and how you can help your child become an independent learner.

### Notes/Reminders

**Parent Homework/Photo Album Page:** Please return both as soon as possible.

**Early Pickups:** If you are picking up your child early from school, please do check in at the office. The office will notify the classroom teacher that you are waiting in the office and we will send them down to you at that time. Thank you for your help with this.

**Homework:** Students should spend a minimum of 30 minutes per night on homework. Class time is provided in most subject areas to get started on assignments. Please expect homework to be given Monday through Thursday on a regular basis. However, homework may be assigned over the weekend if your child has not completed his/her missing work or when a quiz or test is scheduled for the beginning of the next week. We are also expecting all 4<sup>th</sup> graders to complete 15 minutes of independent reading time at least four days per week. They can track their reading progress on the charts provided in class. These charts will be collected at the end of every month and will count towards part of your child's reading grade.

### A peek at our classes:

**Math (Mrs. Rustin & Mrs. Lehman):** Chapter 1 focuses on understanding whole numbers through the millions, building number sense, and using money to understand decimals through the hundredths. Students should expect homework on a daily basis. **We will have snack during our math class each day. Please send only nutritious snacks☺.**

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**Math (Mrs. Thomas):** Following a placement test, we have begun to move swiftly through our review of last year's materials. We will cover the first three chapters of the text as quickly as possible, covering 3 or 4 lessons of review each day. Checkpoints and chapter tests will come quickly. A cumulative test on the first three chapters will tentatively take place before the end of this month. Students will need to be independent and quite serious about getting work in on time to maintain the solid "B" average (and above) that is expected in this class.

**Language:** Unit 1 in our grammar book focuses on, "The Sentence". Students will be identifying complete and fragmented sentences, subject and predicate identification, and also spend time writing "good" sentences. We will also practice handwriting skills so that cursive writing becomes fluent and automatic.

**Spelling:** We have begun Unit 1 in our spelling curriculum. Most of the spelling activities that are taught in class will follow up with a page of homework in the workbook. Students will be allowed some class time to work on this assignment. Please look for spelling Take Home Tasks to come home during each unit. We allow two days for these to be completed and returned to school. **This Take Home Task is for you and your child to do together. These tasks complement the skills we're working on at school. Please sign and return these so your child can turn them in on time.**

**Science:** We begin our unit on the Human Body with lesson 1, *How Do the Skeletal and Muscular Systems Work?* Throughout this lesson we will identify the basic parts that make up the body and explain how the skeletal and muscular systems work together. Lesson 2 will focus on the Respiratory and Circulatory Systems. At the beginning of each chapter students will be given flashcards to practice the vocabulary taught in each section. These are a great tool for test preparation. There will also be note-taking in each section as well. Did you know that the smallest bone in the human body is the size of a grain of rice?

**Social Studies:** We are taking a look at the importance of geography before we begin our studies of the regions of the United States and their environments. We will develop our map skills by reading different kinds of maps. We will have an economic activity about human, natural and capital resources.

**Religion:** Unit 1 in our religion curriculum focuses on the Holy Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Lessons, prayers and activities will focus on the current chapter that we are learning about. Students made Holy Trinity posters this week in class. Please ask them to share these with you 😊.

We look forward to a wonderful school year with you and your child!

Mrs. Rustin & Mrs. Lehman

