



Dear Parents,

February 2, 2012

It was nice to see so many of you at parent-teacher conferences last week. Thank you for taking the time to be a part of your child's progress here in 4th grade 😊.

Upcoming Dates and Reminders:

Feb. 3	Faith Rally Day
Feb. 6-9	Caught Reading 7:00-7:30
Feb. 8	Mass 9:10 (4 th Grade Loft Singers)
Feb. 13	Sandwich Report Due
Feb. 13-16	Caught Reading 7:00-7:30
Feb. 14	Valentine's Day-Wear (Red & White Day)



- **Late Work:** We have had a growing amount of late work in the past few weeks. If your child has been gone from school, has missed class due to band lessons, or simply has a late assignment, we expect that work be turned in as soon as possible. Please check Powerschool frequently as we note if there are missing or late assignments. A zero is recorded in Powerschool until an assignment is turned in to the teacher and graded. Thank you for your efforts with this.
- **Sandwich Book Reports:** The trimester 2 sandwich book reports are due Monday, February 13th. Students were given directions and materials to complete part 2 of this project on Tuesday of this week. This project is a part of your child's reading grade for trimester 2.
- **Valentine's Day:** We will be taking time for a short valentine celebration in our classes on February 14th. Students are able to bring valentines on this day if they so choose. This is also a non-uniform day. Students are encouraged to dress in red/white or pink on this day.
- **February Reading Logs/I Love to Read:** February reading logs were given to students this week. Please remind your child to record actual minutes read on the form. Thank you for helping to instill good reading habits in your child through this classroom reading activity. Please watch for details in this week's FYI regarding I Love to Read month and the classroom/school activities that are planned for this month.
- **Second Step-Skills for Social and Academic Success:** During the past few weeks, Mrs. Kinney, our school psychologist has spent time in each of the 4th grade classrooms. Through the Second Step program, Mrs. Kinney is modeling and teaching the students how to have empathy for classmates, listening to others with attention, and it is our hope that students will be able to take from this program strategies to help foster positive interactions and relationships with their peers.

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Science: Students took the chapter test today on Motion-Forces at Work. Please watch for this test to come home for a signature early next week. *Did you know that a spacecraft must travel at 25,000 miles per hour to leave Earth's gravitational pull behind?* Next, we begin Chapter 3, Simple Machines. This unit's objectives are learning how levers, pulleys, wheels, axels, and other simple machines help us do work. Students will be completing an at-home machine project that will be due toward the end of the unit. A guideline sheet will be coming home shortly explaining the project details and due date.

Social Studies: We explore the South in Chapter 5. We are completing an "opportunity cost and decision making" activity called "Choose and Refuse," learning to make choices among different alternatives. Your child should be practicing his/her Chapter 5 flash cards and the 14 states of this region as well as reviewing the states in the Northeast. After we finish Lesson 3, "People of the South," we will review for the chapter test. The Chapter 5 Test is planned for next Friday, February 10th.

Math (Rustin): Please sign and return the Chapter 4 test if you have not already done so. Chapter 5 focuses on multiplying by one-digit numbers. Estimation is taught and used throughout this chapter.

Math (Lehman): Accelerated Math is due Tuesday, February 21st. This trimester students need to complete a minimum of 10 packets, with 50% of those receiving a score of 80% or better. We are multiplying by one-digit numbers in Chapter 5. The Chapter 5 Test will take place early in the week of February 13th. Please watch your child's planner for the date.

Reading: Next week, we will read the Time for Kids article, Twisted Trails. This article is about a man who designs walk-through mazes for a living and his use of math and science as a way to share his talents with others. The unit test will follow this story. At the beginning of trimester 3, students will begin reading a class novel. Vocabulary, comprehension, and literature skills will be emphasized throughout the novel reading experience.

Language: Students completed a fun snow day writing project this past week in class. The focus of this writing activity was to develop a well written paragraph including a thesis statement, three supporting details and a conclusion statement. These projects are displayed in our 4th grade hall and are quite fun to read. We are working on correct spelling of both present and past tense verbs as well as helping and irregular verbs in our grammar curriculum.

Religion: We are spending time in our religion book learning about God's merciful love and how God shows this when He forgives our sins. There will be a short quiz on this unit coming up in the next week or so. Please watch the planner for an exact test date. Thank you for contributing to our Stone Soup project this week. Students enjoyed a tasty treat of soup in class yesterday and learned about the importance of helping others through the telling of the story, Stone Soup.

Blessings,

Mrs. Rustin & Mrs. Lehman

