

“Fourth Grade Focus” Newsletter
September 29, 2011

Dear Parents,

Fall has officially arrived and we are in our 4th week of school!

Notes/Reminders

We at SCCS are committed to building community in our classrooms, hallways, and lunchroom as well as on the playground. We will do our best to hold our students accountable for their behavior. We are all made in the image of God. We ask for your help in emphasizing, promoting and encouraging respectful and kind behavior to others, both peers and adults. Working together, our home and school partnership can develop and educate the whole child – mind, body and spirit.

Assignments: We are asking for your help instilling habits of organization and responsibility in your child. As we work our way through trimester 1, we have a growing number of students with late or missing work in all classes, including Spanish. Students are forgetting their work or simply not completing assignments on time. PowerSchool is up and running. It is one tool besides the planner that you can use with your child to teach them to take an active and responsible part in learning. The key here is to be proactive!

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

Snacks: Healthy, finger foods work well. A snack helps fuel learning and keeps us alert as we have a late lunch.

Parent/Teacher Conferences: Conference sign-up forms are in this week’s FYI. Sra. Bates is not available on Thursday, October 27, so please contact her directly to set up a meeting time.

Marathon: Last Friday, we had a lively assembly to kick off this year’s marathon. This is our major fundraiser for the year. Thank you for your generosity and help with event. We will try to encourage the students and promote the marathon with a few “extra and fun” classroom incentives!

Band: We are pleased that there are so many students joining band this year. If a lesson is missed, please take the time to ensure that your child understands it. Please remind your child to turn in an assignment for the class missed *before* going to band and to check the classroom’s planner or with us about homework. It is your child’s responsibility to make up any missed work due to band.

Reading Logs: Please sign the September Reading Log. It is due Monday, October 3rd. Students are expected to read a minimum of 15 minutes 4 times a week outside of class as part of their Reading grade. Look for the orange October sheet in your child’s planner or portfolio.

Scholastic Book Orders: Look for these forms in today’s Thursday folder. We will send home Scholastic Book Orders every other month. This order is due Tuesday, October 4th. No cash, please. Checks are payable to Scholastic. Orders may be combined in one check.

Let’s take a look at our classes. Please see the other side.

Math (Mrs. Rustin): My class will have the Chapter 1 Test early next week. Please watch your child's planner for the date.

Math (Mrs. Lehman): My class will have the Chapter 1 Test early next week as well. Please watch your child's planner for the date. *Accelerated Math* is part of your child's Math grade this year. Each week, students are expected to turn in a worksheet, whether it is a Practice, Test, or Exercise worksheet with its card to Mrs. Doeksen/ Mrs. Olsen and receive 80 % or better. Students are expected to complete five (5) worksheets by Friday, October 28 which is about mid-trimester. Another three (3) worksheets need to be turned in by November 22nd before Thanksgiving break for a total of eight (8) worksheets with scores of 80% or better. Mrs. Doeksen or Mrs. Olsen will let us know on a weekly basis how students are doing. Please check your child's planner for this information.

Math (Mrs. Thomas): We have been reviewing skills learned last year and are stopping to expand on or learn some new concepts. In the course of the next two weeks we will be working with factors of numbers, primes and composite numbers, and order of operations. We will also be expanding on division of whole numbers and decimals. A cumulative test in two weeks will evaluate the learning of these concepts.

Language: We continue to focus on "The Sentence" in Unit 1. Any writing done in conjunction with the workbook is written in the Language Arts notebook "Journal".

Reading: September Reading Logs are due Monday, October 3rd. In next week's story, "Seal Journey," we will ferret out the "main idea" and hopefully seal the strategy in our minds for use in other classes as well. More information will come home about the Diorama Book Report in early October.

Religion: Unit 1 continues with a study of God's creations – Lesson 3 "The Universe is Created" and Lesson 4 "People Are Created". There will be a Unit 1 Test over Lessons 1, 2, 3 & 4. Please watch your child's planner for the date.

Social Studies: After reviewing map skills, we will study landforms and bodies of water. Next, we'll take a look at resources and regions in the United States.

Science: Students have completed their first quiz on the human body. Please look for those to come home today. This week we focused on the "Path of Blood" as it travels through the heart and is sent to all body parts. Students colored and labeled a diagram in class. Next, we will focus on the Nervous and Digestive Systems.

God's blessings to all of you.

Educationally yours,
Mrs. Rustin & Mrs. Lehman