

Dear Parents,

October 13, 2011

As we welcome the October sunshine, we find ourselves busy here in the 4th grade learning many things! We have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know your children ☺. Please note that all information found in our bi-weekly newsletters can also be found on the school website as well.

Important Dates and Reminders:

October 20/21	No School-MEA Break
October 24	No am Buses- District Late start day
October 25	Rake-A-Difference Marathon Service Project
October 27	Parent Teacher Conferences 11am-7pm
October 28	No School- Staff Development
October 31	Halloween (dress is orange and black today)



- Please send a water bottle and healthy snack to school with your child each day.
- Rake-A-Difference forms need to be turned in as soon as possible.
- Conference confirmation forms will be coming home today. Please sign and return with your child promptly.
- Today was our last marathon collection day. Any money needing to be turned in after today should be sent directly to the office.
- **S.S.S Alert:** We are looking for a “Seat Sack Sewer” to help throughout the year in the mending of the student seat sacks. If any of you are able to help out with this, please let us know.
- **Homework:** We are not allowing students to make phone calls home for late, missing or forgotten work. Please encourage your child to pack his/her own backpack before school or the night before to avoid leaving things at home. We also ask that parents do not drop off homework during the school day. We are trying to encourage the students to become responsible learners. Attached to our first newsletter in September was a great article by Dr. Steven Kahn, titled *Fading the Prompt*. This article recommends teaching our children during the 4th and 5th grade years the academic responsibilities that will carry them throughout their years of schooling.
- **Powerschool:** Please check Powerschool on a regular basis with your child. This is one of our main tools of communication for progress in all classes. Please note that “Work Skills” are graded only at the end of each trimester. A “zero” indicates that an assignment is missing or late and will only be changed when the assignment is handed in. A red “L” indicates that an assignment is late. Please note the “due date” noted for each entered assignment may not always reflect the actual due date of the assignment, rather, the date the assignment was entered into the system. Please check planners for due dates.
- **Due Dates for Homework:** We do take time to fill out assignment planners. Most days a signature or stamp by your son/daughter’s teacher will be given to show that we have reviewed what has been recorded for each subject. Please assume that unless otherwise noted, ALL assignments are due the following school day. Exceptions to that would apply for any class that does not meet on a regular basis or for test/project due dates. Students are aware of this as well.

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- The gift basket donations for the Zach Sobiech are due November 1. The intermediate theme is, “Read and Feed”. To date very few items have been brought in. Please consider helping with an item or monetary donation.
- **Spanish** – Just a reminder that the fourth graders have Spanish class on Mondays and Thursdays; assignments are to be completed **before** coming to class. All assignments are posted on PowerSchool on the day assigned (or shortly thereafter). Students are instructed to write the Spanish homework in their planners. If further explanation is needed on an assignment, please consult the description of the assignment on PowerSchool. *Gracias* for your support.

A peek at our classes:

Reading (Lehman & Rustin): Students will be taking the Unit 1 Test on Monday of next week. Don’t forget that students should be tracking their daily reading minutes on their October reading logs.

Language: Students completed an in class review early this week and will test on Unit 1 tomorrow. A short writing assessment will be given next week in class focusing on sentence structure as well as proper use of subject and predicates.

Math (Lehman & Rustin): Please sign and return the Chapter 1 test if you have not already done so. Going over the test with your child is a great learning experience for them. Ch. 2 focuses on Adding and Subtracting of Whole Numbers and Money. We are also working on Rocket Ship facts a few times per week in class. This is a curriculum that targets the memorization of both multiplication and division fact mastery.

Math (Thomas): In the next two weeks we will concentrate on the skills of division by larger divisors as well as division of decimals. Our goal is to be finished with Chapter 4 by MEA break. Accelerated Math is going well. Students are expected to have at least one Accelerated Math sheet per week scored and recorded. Successful test points up to 10 points will be added to Checkpoint quiz scores.

Religion: We are continuing our study of how God created everything in Unit 1, Lessons 1 – 4. We will have a test over Unit 1 next week. Watch your child’s planner for the date of the test. Then, we will study the Rosary.

Social Studies: We just received our first issue of Scholastic News this week, and will either read it in homeroom or as part of Social Studies’ class. The Social Studies Chapter 1 Test will be returned for your signature early next week. Next, we will take a look at regions in the United States in Chapter 2, “Understanding Regions.”

Science: Please sign and return the Human Body unit test as soon as possible. Our next chapter focuses on the Earth’s atmosphere, air mass and its effect on weather, and how weather is predicted. Did you know that wind is the result of unequal heating of Earth’s surface by the sun?

Blessings to you all this upcoming weekend,

Mrs. Rustin & Mrs. Lehman



