

# Welcome to 4th Grade!

August 21st, 2015

**We're off to a great start!  
Our class is the best!**

The class newsletters are an important link to our school life. We will email you each week when the newsletter is updated. We will include study guides, performance activity guidelines, and other sources of information from the Lower School administration.



## We Are Getting Organized!

The goal this year is to take ownership of our studies. Completing daily work and being well prepared for assessments is the priority. Student Planners are our tool for keeping focused on our responsibilities. Students are expected to have their Planners opened on their desks each day ready for new entries. Recording goals, specific homework entries, and Reading Log entries are a grade level requirement. Parents, please initial the Planner on Sundays. Establishing good work habits and study routines is essential. Have your child show you what we are doing with our Planners this year!

## Updates, Reminders, & FYIs

### This Week

- ✓Monday through Thursday is D through A Days.
- ✓Thursday - G Day is the All School Opening Chapel at 8:30. Don't forget to wear chapel attire.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR! 👁️

- ✓Parent Night - Thursday, September 10th.
- ✓Hopes and Dreams Conferences are on the 11th. (No classes on the 11th.)

### FYIs... 👁️

\*SSC Sign up link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1XZO48DJPUQo\\_MjUJ8KjxNnvJ944NTu7zit-GDNGwk0w/viewform?usp=send\\_form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1XZO48DJPUQo_MjUJ8KjxNnvJ944NTu7zit-GDNGwk0w/viewform?usp=send_form)

\*The students were asked to provide an old sock or eraser for their wipe-off boards and 3 x 3 post-its for their studies.

### Coming Soon!

Please visit the Scrapbook on our class website for some great pictures throughout the year!



# Here's What We Are Studying

(We will talk more about this on Parent Night.)

What's that you say? There's homework?

## Math

Unit 1, "Naming and Constructing Geometric Figures" is underway. There are only 8 lessons, so we will move through the unit quickly. Much of the unit is review of third grade math concepts. Students are extending their knowledge of lines, line segments, rays, angles, and polygons. A unit study guide was handed out on Thursday. We will refer to the study guide during lessons. Students need to understand the concepts, skills, and strategies on the study guide. Study Link workbooks will be kept at school. Students may also access the pages on the 4th Grade Math Web Page.

## HOMEWORK GUIDELINES

Reading - 4 Times A Week

Math - 3 Times A Week

Writing - 1 Time A Week

## Reader's Workshop

After a rousing discussion about "Who Am I As A Reader?", the students wrote an essay on "My Literary Identity." We also had a great discussion on how to cultivate a strong reading community. Let's see... that means being able to choose "just right books," practicing the art of good conversation, being a good listener, and intentionally unraveling layers of meaning in text.

An important independent reading goal is to build more reading stamina by reading independently longer and stronger. All students should have a fiction and a nonfiction book.

This year the students will use their Planners for their Reading Logs. Yea... no more added paper work! The log entry will include the title of the book, the pages read, and the minutes read.

## Writer's Workshop

One of the first Writer's Workshop lessons involved the students establishing their class "Givens" for writing good sentences.

All sentences must:

- \*start with a capital letter
- \*end with the correct punctuation
- \*be a complete thought
- \*have good grammar
- \*include grade level words spelled correctly
- \*include a capitalized "I" if the word "I" is used

All writing should reflect these goals. This list will be growing!

**Weekly Writing** - On Friday, we reviewed the prompt for the first weekly writing piece. All weekly writing is due by Friday. The students were given a handout of the prompt and guidelines were discussed for writing it. Look for the prompt in your child's Homework Folder.

## Social Studies

Our social studies curriculum changed this year. The focus will be on colonization and the making of a new nation. Our current unit is a "Boot Camp" to provide background that leads up to colonization. We are going WAY back in time for our studies. The students were fascinated by our videos on Pangea. They are currently working on a Pangea puzzle for their Bare Books - a scrapbook celebrating our studies throughout the year. This week, we will focus on the dinosaurs, Beringia (the land bridge), and the Ice Age.