

August 28, 2009
Issue 1

TRIPLE PLAY

A bimonthly newsletter for the classes of Mrs. Birt, Mrs. Dick, and Mrs. Seeger

IMPORTANT DATES:

August 28 - Unit 1 Spelling Test

September 4 - Unit 2 Spelling Test

September 7 - No School - Labor Day

September 8 - Citizenship Quilt Square Due

October 12 - No School- Columbus Day

READING/LANGUAGE ARTS

Our classes will use two types of reading material for language arts and reading skills throughout the year. Most of our weekly lessons will come from our reading series. This book is divided into six units, each with a different theme. Within each unit, there are six stories. Each story focuses on a different skill lesson that is required for all fourth graders to learn. Some of the skills will be featured more than once this year. We will continue to work with all skills throughout the year with other reading materials across the curriculum as well. We began with our first story, *A Visit with Grandpa* in our reading book last week. The skill lesson that we focused on with this story was *setting*. The setting is where and when the story takes place. It is important for the reader to understand the setting in order to better connect with the characters and thus be more easily able to comprehend the story.

Next week's story is called *A Train To Somewhere*. The skill lesson we will focus on is *sequence*. Sequence is used when a story is told in the order in which it happens. Clue words include first, next, last, then, and finally. We will also begin studying the four different types of sentences this week. They are declarative, exclamatory, interrogative, and imperative.

We will also be reading from a variety of chapter books this year. At times, our classes may be reading the same book, but we will most likely be rotating the novels throughout the year. All of the novels will have vocabulary and comprehension questions that will be completed in class or assigned for homework.

MATH with Mrs. Dick

In Math the students have been reviewing place value, and expressing numbers in standard form, expanded form, word form, and short word form. We will review comparing numbers and be ready for a quiz on Tuesday, September 1st. We will continue with number sense and estimating/rounding through next week.

This week the problem solving required the students to "make the problem simpler" and "guess and check". Students have problem solving activities throughout the week and we will be discussing the many strategies that can be used to be successful.

Throughout the week Mrs. Bauman will be team teaching in my classroom. Mrs. Hodge is also available Monday through Thursday from 2:45-3:00. Mrs. Hodge is our kindergarten special area teacher, however she has some open time in the afternoons for math support.

SCIENCE with Mrs. Seeger

In science, we have been learning about water. We learned that water is the only substance that can be a solid, a liquid, and a gas. We also learned about the three stages of the water cycle - evaporation, condensation, and precipitation. We will continue to learn about other wonders of water this week.

SOCIAL STUDIES with Mrs. Birt

I am so excited to begin the Social Studies classes for the year. Not only do I enjoy geography and history, we also adopted a new Social Studies series. The students have begun learning about geography. We have done a study of the 7 continents and 5 oceans and have created a world map. Next week the students will focus on reading grid maps, the hemispheres, map keys and legends.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

One of the standards that we teach in fourth grade is legible cursive writing. We require all spelling and work to be completed in cursive throughout the year. Some exceptions are made when labeling maps, completing math problems, and taking notes in class. It is not unusual for this skill to be difficult at first, as many students have not practiced this skill during the summer. It will become easier as the year continues.

Each classroom is collecting box tops and Campbell soup labels again this year. We also collect the tops to aluminum cans for the Ronald McDonald House. Please send them in at any time.

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