

Fritz's 4th Grade Facts

aw_aca_rf@nwoca.org

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Important Dates

Sept. 7 No school

Sept. 15 MAPS meeting 11:00

Sept. 15 Parent meeting 7:00

Reading

Our first story in our reading book was titled "A visit with Grandpa". We studied the skill of recognizing setting clues and visualizing the time and place stories take place. Next week, we'll be reading "A Train to Somewhere", and working on the skill of keeping the story sequence in order as well as creating a map of the story.

Spelling

Our first tests are complete. Each Friday afternoon we schedule our spelling testing. We first take the dictation test for the week. Next, the children need to read a short story that has spelling mistakes, mostly using that week's list of words, that they need to locate in the text by highlighting. They then correctly write the word on the line. The other part of our test is the editing side where they mostly are practicing correcting errors in sentences. This style of testing is new to our students and may take awhile to get the hang of it...I will begin grading them next week. The weekly activities for spelling practice will remain the same for the first quarter:

write 20 list words 5x each; 5 review words and challenge words 10x each, all 30 words in ABC order while defining ONLY THE CHALLENGE WORDS! All work is due as a "pack" on Thursdays, so I can see any practice mistakes they may have made and return to fix and study.

Science

Who lives in a pineapple under the sea? SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS! Yes, it's true, I have found a way to use a favorite TV character into my science lessons! The children used a science lesson from "Bikini Bottom" to determine safe vs. unsafe science lab procedures to come up with our classroom rules for experimenting. We'll be learning the scientific method this week on the proper steps to follow when conducting experiments. I plan to incorporate many experiments into my weekly lesson plans, so I hope you find a renewed excitement in your children concerning the topic of science.

Math

We began our year taking a "diagnostic" test covering many math skills. We "graded" these together then collected data on the number of children missing each question. We quickly saw the weakness and strengths in our team of learners. While collecting this data, I realize now where to focus my lessons, and where I

skip reviewing certain topics since they already perform well. We've decided to stick with the collecting data idea and learn new words like median, range, mode and mean. This will also help us when we try to analyze our grades being collected in our data binders very soon!

We also opened the "Fritz's Fun Mart" today for the first payday and store day! The children will be keeping their own checkbook registers and learning how to balance their money earned throughout the year. I would like the children to keep their checkbook registers at school, but I've invited them to bring them home to show you this evening!

YPP (Yearly Progress Pro) on computers

Friday mornings in my room and Monday's for Mrs. Warner's group will be dedicated to spending time practicing math skills on the computer. We will be using computer generated activities that I choose for the children to practice the math skills we'll be working on at that time using this YPP computer program. I will be printing results to analyze the success of the children, and at times, I'll be taking their work on these computer assignments for a grade. I will inform the children which assignment those will be while we're in the lab working.