

Notes and News from the 4th Grade Crew



Oct. 21, 2011

Dear Families,

I hope that you have been enjoying the beautiful fall weather. Take some time to get outdoors this weekend! Winter can't be too far away.

Upcoming Field Trip

Our third field trip will be on either October 26 or October 27 to Sombrero Marsh in Boulder. Mrs. Sanders and Mrs. Shelby will be going on Wed. and Mrs. Belasco, Mr. Currie and Mrs. Mallett attending on Thurs. Students will get an opportunity to take part in several learning stations including water pollution, bird observations, seed studies and more. Parents are welcome to attend and take part with a group. Usually we have plenty of room on the bus. Let your child's teacher know if you are able to attend. Students need to dress for outdoor activities and bring a 'waste-free' lunch.

Literacy/Math

In math, students have been graphing, exploring probability and completing 'bead buddies'. This project combined graphing and hands-on work, and a final project that everyone had been excited about. Our next unit will spiral back to multiplication and bring in division while addressing Standards 1 (Number), 2 (Algebra) and 6 (Operations). Please feel free to contact your child's math block teacher if you have any questions and look for email math newsletters approximately once a month.

In Literacy, all classes will soon be working on the Create-an-Island writing. This is to support our landform/geography unit. Students will be designing an 'island', adding landforms, and then writing a persuasive piece to entice 'travellers' to come to their island. Students will be working through the writing process: brainstorming, prewriting, first draft, sharing, revising, editing, and finally creating the final published piece. Of course each class maybe doing slightly different things during

their literacy time, such as guided reading groups, non-fiction reading/writing/research or comprehension strategies. Look for spelling, grammar and cursive to be a part of learning as well.



Science and Social Studies

Although we have wrapped up our "Sun, Moon, and Stars" unit, please keep noting the diminishing amount of day light, the position of the sun in the sky which causes the shadows to be longer, and the moon phases with your child. You could have a great discussion about the time change coming up in a few weeks. We were really sad that we had to cancel our Moon Gazing Night. Maybe in the spring we will be able to try again. Special thanks to the many parents that helped to organize this event.

We have now begun our unit on Geography. The 4th grade curriculum states that 4th graders will be able to "Know how to use and construct maps, globes, and other geographic tools to locate and derive information about people, places, and environments." In addition, it states that "Students understand how economic, political, cultural, and social processes interact to shape diverse patterns of human populations, movement, interdependence, cooperation, and conflict." In order to help the kids meet these standards, we have begun learning about the many, many landforms that we find in geography. We will specifically try to concentrate on landforms that would have affected the life of the American Colonists. Then, when we begin studying the 13 Colonies, we will tie the connection of these landforms into the history of life in the colonies.

Our next science unit will focus on Structures of Life, conducting investigations dealing with observable characteristics of organisms. Students will observe, compare, categorize, and care for a selection of organisms, and in doing so they learn to identify properties of plants and animals and to sort and group on the basis of properties. There is a lot of fun hands-on learning with this unit.



Reminders and Highlights

Please note we are still accepting CLASSROOM FEES of \$25. This money pays for the student planners, the National Geographic Explorer magazines, field trips, etc. We realize that there have been many fundraisers the past few weeks and therefore we will accept fees until Dec.

Sombrero Marsh	Oct. 26 th Shelby and Sanders' class
	Oct. 27 th Belasco/Currie and Mallett's class
Halloween celebrations	Oct. 31* please check with teacher for exact time
Veteran's Day	Nov. 11- No School

Remember to read over and sign planner each night!



Have a great weekend!
Your 4th grade team