



**October 24, 2011**

## **Mrs. Taht's Fourth Grade Newsflash**

### Parent / Teacher / Student Conferences

Thank you, thank you for a wonderful round of fall parent/teacher/student conferences. It was a delight to brainstorm goals and strategies for your child with all the "players" involved. I so appreciate the time and energy everyone put forth to make these discussions very positive and productive. I am in the process of typing up all of the goals (and strategies to achieve them). When finished, we will tape them inside our desks. I'll also send a copy home. As the year progresses, please check in with your child about his/her progress toward the achievement of these goals (we'll be doing so at school also). Thank you for your partnership in educating your child this year!

### Book Orders & Rain Forest Bake Sale

\*The Rain Forest Bake Sale, sponsored by our fifth grade will be held for a second time on Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> during our afternoon recess time. Please discourage large amounts of cash, as this leads to uncomfortable situations with your child's peers. Thank you!

\*Latest book orders just arrived – books will be distributed this week. New order forms will come home in this week's Friday folders. Remember, if you order on-line, our classroom earns free books!! Orders will be due by Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>.



### Next three weeks at a glance...

- 10/26 Fall Family Folk Dance
- 10/28 Halloween Parade & Parties
- 10/31 Happy Halloween
- 11/1 Speeches 8:10-9:00 & 10-10:45
- 11/2 Speeches 8:10-9:00 & 1:40-2:30
- 11/2 Reading to End Racism 9-10
- 11/3 Speeches 8:10-9:00 & 10-10:45
- 11/4 Wax Museum 1:00-2:00 in library
- 11/4 End of Trimester #1
- 11/10 Field trip to Planetarium 10-12
- 11/11 No School - Veteran's Day
- 11/18 Trimester B-day Party 1:45-2:30
- 11/19-11/27 Thanksgiving Break

### Hats off to Christine Hambleton!!

I want to thank Christine for the incredible job of organizing our upcoming Halloween party. She has solicited help from many of our families, and I hear there is a crew coming in for decorating on Thursday afternoon...can't wait to see the "spooky place"!! If you haven't been able to volunteer to help, no worries – there will be lots of other opportunities to pitch in throughout the year. All are encouraged to join us on Friday for the parade (begins at 1:15) and the party to follow! Hope to see you there!

# Check out our new learning goals....

Reading	DEAR – continue weekly contracts, daily logs in class, AR quizzes as a book is completed Speech Writing and delivery Nonfiction reading - Explorers
Writing	Choose a story to take through the writing process (revising, editing, publishing)
Language	Spelling –(all) high frequency word list tests on Fridays Spellography – working on vowel and consonant sounds Latin – root words and beginning vocabulary Sitton – spelling patterns for vowel and consonant blends
Math (4 <sup>th</sup> gr)	Multiplication – single digit x double and triple digit multiplication Speed tests continue = addition, subtraction, mult facts
Social Studies	Geography – maps & globes; US geography *28 states & capital cities east of the Mississippi River, geographical & historical landmarks

Notes about our upcoming Social Studies curriculum:

- We're wrapping up our study of the sun, moon & stars this week. We'll take a final quiz about the stars this Wednesday. Our CUTeach students will have two more lessons to deliver about water.
- On the heels of our Science unit, we'll turn our attention to focusing on our **Social Studies curriculum**. This new unit evolves into a four month study, and includes the following: a study of the geography of the world and the United States; the colonization of the Americas (with particular emphasis on North America); learning about the thirteen original colonies; and analyzing the events that lead up to the American Revolution. That's a lot to learn and cover for our fourth graders! We will use some reading time to help us accomplish this vast standard area. We will begin our next literacy unit (following our biography unit) reading about the many explorers that covered the globe during the "Age of Exploration" (1400's to 1600's). This type of reading will help to strengthen our skills in the nonfiction genre.

## **Field Trips & Special Events coming up!**

- **Speeches next week and Wax Museum on November 4<sup>th</sup> 1:00-2:00 in the library – invite family & friends!**
- **Next field trip is to the Planetarium at CU on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup> (culminates our Science unit study). We need drivers who have conducted the extensive background check (sorry for the inconvenience!!) If you can help, please complete the information on the permission slip.**
- **Trimester Birthday party for all b-days between 8/18 – 11/18. Party is scheduled for Friday, 11/18 1:45-2:30 - Sue Mills, Marisa Aguirre, and Terri Lee are organizing & will be in touch.**
- **Field trip to CU University Theater to see "A Wonderful Life, A Radio Play" on 12/8.**