



October 7, 2011

Mrs. Taht's Fourth Grade Newsflash

Parent / Teacher / Student Conferences

I'm looking forward to our goal setting conferences beginning next week! Please remember to bring your child with you – he/she will be an important part of our goal setting discussion.

What to expect:

1. Setting goals for our year together
2. AR testing data and information to help understand and guide your child's independent reading
3. Writing sample review, math "at a glance" data, spelling data
4. Time for questions



Next three weeks at a glance...

10/12, 10/18, 10/20 P/T/S Conferences
3:00-8:00pm

10/17-10/21 Book Fair in Library

10/13 DEAR Contract Due & Scholastic
book orders due

10/14 No School for students

10/26 Fall Family Folk Dance

10/28 Halloween Parade & Parties

10/31 Speeches Begin

11/4 Wax Museum & end of trimester

Book Orders Due

Thank you to everyone who placed an order this month with our Scholastic book orders. I'll accept orders through Thursday of this week. Please remember if you place an order on-line, it helps our classroom gain new and free books. This is a wonderful way to give the gift of reading to your child, as well as to all of his/her peers.

Rain Forest Bake Sale

*Sponsored by our fifth grade / We'll attend on Friday, October 23rd / Please discourage large amounts of cash, as this leads to uncomfortable situations with your child's peers. Thank you!

Party Planners Needed!!

This is a "shout out" to any of you who love to plan parties! Christine Hambleton is heading up our Halloween party, and she could use an extra hand or two with the planning. Please let me know if you're able and willing to help. She'll also be soliciting help by way of: supplying goodies, adding to craft supplies, decorations, etc. But a note about those needs will come later, once we find another coordinator to give her a hand. [Let me know if you can help!](#)

Check out our new learning goals....

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Reading | DEAR – continue weekly contracts, daily logs in class, AR quizzes as a book is completed Research with biographies Note-taking (coding the text) – see note below for details |
| 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 |
| Math (4 th gr) | Multiplication – relationship between multiplication & division; patterns in multiplication; single digit multiplication Speed tests continue = addition, subtraction, multiplication facts |
| Science | Sun, Moon, & Stars Unit study |
| Social Studies | Geography – maps & globes; US geography |

Research is underway!

The kids are off to a great start with our biography unit. They have chosen great books about interesting people. They have two full days of reading and note-taking under their belts. We are taking notes using a coding system. They have a list of categories, and as they read, when they find something important or interesting, they tag it with a sticky note and add a “code” for the category (i.e. early years = EY). Once a book is “exhausted”, the sticky notes will be removed and placed into the back section of their research folder. There, they have notebook paper which they’ll label with each category – then place the sticky notes together based on category. This is a way of helping them to organize their note-taking. They will then be able to look through their pages and identify “holes”. In other words, look for categories they do not have enough information (notes). They will then use other reference materials (World Book encyclopedia on-line, other books, Internet sites) to fill in these gaps.

After our note-taking is complete (expected date is 10/24) we will then use our notes to begin writing our speeches. We’ll use our organized category notes to easily transfer the information onto note cards. The kids will learn to use “bullets” on their note cards, instead of long, complete sentences (similar to PPT’s). This strategy will encourage them to actually memorize their speech, instead of standing up and reading their cards.

Speeches will be presented in class the week of 10/31. Kids will sign up for a date and time this Thursday, so if you have any time constraints, please be sure your child is aware of them so he/she can sign up at a time you will be able to join us.

I sent out a letter detailing the biography unit. Please refer to this letter (also available on our website under research) for details about the project. In addition, the children have a self-monitoring sheet and two different rubrics (speech and research notes) in their research folders to help guide them through this project. Ask them to see these materials and to explain them to you (my expectation is that they can). ☺