

October 19, 2007

# 4M Classroom News

## Math

In mathematics we have started a new unit called Arrays and Shares. This unit focuses on multiplication and division. We have explored rectangular arrangements, arrays, and have discussed their dimensions, areas and perimeters. Arrays help students visualize the important relationship between multiplication and division. We will continue our discussion of arrays as we move into our upcoming Architecture project.

## Reading

Students in 4M are avid readers! I have been impressed with their stamina and dedication to Reading Workshop.

Each student has a Reading Response Journal for recording books read, reading interests and his/her thinking about reading. Our most recent entries have focused on connections made with the text, particularly text-to-self and text-to-text connections. As the year progresses, more reading strategies and skills will be introduced and incorporated into students' daily reading.




Please encourage your child to use the Active Reading bookmark that was sent home. It serves as a reminder that good readers are always thinking about what they are reading.

## Writing

Following our poetry writing in fourth grade, our next focus during Writing Workshop is on crafting a memoir. Students will have the opportunity to discover what they think, what they know and what they care about. They should think about choosing a narrower topic, which can be explored in depth, rather than a broader topic, such as a whole summer vacation or whole weekend.

Students have worked to confer with one another and with the classroom teachers to share ideas and revise their work to make it stronger.

## Science



We have started our investigation of the first science unit, States of Matter. Through observation and experimentation, students worked to determine the properties and definitions of the liquid and gas states of matter. Today we had a presentation by the Discovery Museum about the States of Matter. Students were able to experience the sublimation of dry ice and the states of matter for various materials; it was fantastic!

Our field trip to the Harvard Museum of Natural History served as a springboard for the Geology unit, which will follow our States of Matter investigation. I look forward to the Geology Walk on November 16<sup>th</sup> (rain date: November 19<sup>th</sup>), which will reinforce and give meaning to the various types of rocks we will have studied by that time.

## Other News

Please remember to send in confirmation of your scheduled conference time. If you have a time conflict, please make sure to contact me to schedule a different time and/or date.

In addition to our weekly Wednesday early releases, students will be dismissed at 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, due to the start of Parent Conferences.

The Halloween Parade will be held on Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, starting at 8:45 a.m. Students will wear their costumes to school for the parade and change back into school clothes for the remainder of the day.

If your child is leaving his/her rollerblades at school between Fitness and Health classes, please send in a note for your permission, as it is not the school's responsibility for lost belongings.

