

September 12, 2008

Volume 2, Issue 1

4Su News

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Ask your child:

- What languages, other than English, do members of 4Su speak?
- Which two members of 4Su were at a Tanglewood concert on the same night?
- Is 4Su mostly the youngest, the oldest, or the middle in our families?
- What are your goals for fourth grade?
- What variable is your group testing in Science?
- What is a silhouette?

Calendar

9/12 - Ice Cream Social
6pm – 7:15pm

9/17 – Back to School Night
6:45 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.

Welcome!

We learn more about each other every day! During morning meeting, several classmates share a Summer Souvenir. They listen carefully to stories, enjoy photographs, and ask questions about mementos. These discussions have taken us on journeys to Canada, the Baseball Hall of Fame, New York City, and to several very notable spots in New England. Students happily share swimming trophies, mountain climbing certificates, or articles of clothing that mark a special event or visit. Special treasures found during a walk in the woods or on a beach are very carefully passed around our circle as students raise their hands to ask a question or make a comment.

Students have reflected on their experiences in third grade and have asked many questions about the upcoming work in fourth grade. These activities and discussions provide a thoughtful base for students to create

In the classroom . . .

Our first math unit, *Factors, Multiples, and Arrays*, is one of three multiplication units studied during grade four. Students began their work by considering everyday items that are found in rectangular arrays – a six-pack of juice, a carton of eggs, or the classroom mailboxes. After all, math is everywhere! The big ideas from this unit include developing strategies to solve unknown multiplication combinations (multiplication facts), using arrays, pictures, models, or stories to represent multiplication situations, and finding the

their initial academic and social goals for the year. These goals will be revisited throughout the year as we accomplish our goals or realize we want to challenge ourselves in a different way. I look forward to sharing this initial work with you, which we call our Hopes and Dreams, on Back to School Night.

Finally, utilizing the Multiple Intelligences framework developed by Howard Gardner, members of 4Su are completing an activity called SMARTS. Students have completed a survey to help them identify their personal learning strengths and they are now creating a “map of their brain” that illustrates their findings. Finally, we will share these results with each other, helping us to continue to learn about each other and initiate our on-going discussions about diversity. At the beginning of the year we focus on the diversity within our classroom community and as the year progresses we explore various ethnic groups within our country. More to come on this!

factors of 2-digit numbers. I hope you have found the family letters helpful. We will talk more about math at Back to School Night!

We have also begun a science activity called Balls and Ramps that reinforces the grade three Fair Testing Unit while providing an opportunity to observe students as they plan, observe, measure, classify, predict, communicate, and control variables. 4Su scientists have been actively engaged during testing.