

4Su News

*Ms. Sullivan
Hunnewell Elementary, Wellesley, MA 02482
Webpage: <http://teacherweb.com/MA/Hunnewell/MsSullivan>*

Ask your child:

- What recess game did we talk about in Open Circle and why?
- What are the factors of 100?
- What happens to a flower when it is placed in liquid nitrogen?
- We began to make books this week. What are we going to put in these books?
- When we work together, what behaviors will help us be successful?

Calendar

9/30 – Rosh Hashanah – No School

10/13 – Columbus Day – No School

10/31 – Halloween Parade

Science Excitement!

Can you drive a nail into a block of wood using a banana? You can if you have liquid nitrogen! Can a chunk of dry ice (frozen carbon dioxide gas) pop open a tightly closed film canister? It sure can! Can dry ice cause a balloon to expand but not to pop? You bet, but how are these events possible?

This past week, an instructor from the Discovery Museum treated 4Su scientists to an exciting and informative introductory presentation. Students were actively engaged, bursting with questions, and gasping with amazement as they began to grapple with the concept of matter, molecules, and the role of heat. In the coming two weeks, we will be conducting several experiments to address the following questions: does air take up space, is air

matter, what are the four states of matter and how are they defined, and finally, what causes matter to change from one state to another? Students may want to repeat experiments at home to share their thinking with family members. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

We are almost finished sharing our Balls and Ramps results with one another. Our sharing prompted discussions about whether our experiments were truly fair (changing one variable while controlling all others), keeping track of data and our procedures, and working well together in teams. Scientists face these issues every day. Reflecting on our work provides an opportunity to celebrate what went well and consider how to do even better next time.

Other news . . .

We continue to work with factors, multiples, and arrays. At this point in the year, students skip count, use another multiplication combination (fact) they know, or use a landmark number to solve for an unknown combination. By mid-fourth grade, students are expected to know their multiplication combinations through the 12s as readily as they know their own name. Please work with your child to help them work on their combinations – three or four each day. On another math note, I hope you have found the new handbooks helpful.

In Reading Workshop we have discussed how to choose just right

books, why readers sometimes abandon books, and how we will conduct ourselves during our reading block. Students will begin to write reading response letters that will be an on-going dialogue about the books they are reading and thinking about.

Have you seen your child's Homework Plan? Students are in the process of filling out a weekly calendar and responding to reflective questions about how they will begin to manage their time and complete homework. Please know that I have encouraged them to be sure to include time for play too!