

# 4Su News

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## MCAS Test Dates

- Long Composition  
March 31
- English Language Arts (Reading comprehension and short written response)  
April 3  
April 6  
April 13

## Open Circle

- The entire grade met this week to discuss issues during recess. Students expressed concerns about lack of fairness, unkind and discouraging words, and being excluded in a variety of hurtful ways. The conversation was open and honest.
- Later in the week, students reported that recess had improved and that they were having more fun!
- The entire grade will meet again next week to continue our discussion on solutions.

## In the classroom . . .

Students have just completed our fifth math unit, Landmarks and Large Numbers. The unit focused on reviewing place-value and delving into addition and subtraction operations. Students added and subtracted multiples of 10 and 100 from a given number as they extended their knowledge of the number system to 10,000. 4Su mathematicians studied addition, practicing four different addition strategies including the U.S. standard algorithm. As a class we built a 10,000 chart and practiced building numbers using addition and subtraction, then placed them on our chart.

The unit concluded with a study of subtraction strategies using authentic problems involving distance (miles) and money. Throughout the unit, students first solved problems with their math partner and then presented their solutions to the class. Frequently, we had four or five different strategies on the board, allowing us to focus on understanding and recognizing the most

efficient strategy. Our next math unit is on fractions and decimals, Fraction Cards and Decimal Squares.

In Literacy Workshop we have been practicing for the MCAS reading assessment. Students have been fine-tuning their open response skills including restating the question, creating a gist answer, providing supporting details from the text, and ending with a concluding sentence. Following the MCAS testing in the beginning of April, we will complete a Seymour Simon author study and begin our Poetry unit.

This week we kicked off our Channel 4Su Newscast. Students pored over recent newspapers and chose articles across for topic areas: National, International, Health & Science, and Sports, Arts & Leisure. Each table group will produce a Newscast for the class and then a more formal schedule will be developed where four students present the news on Friday afternoon. The schedule will be posted on the web.

## Other Nuggets . . .

### MCAS Gum & Hard Candy

Gum during MCAS helps keep bodies still. Gum also helps control the fidgets. These are the guidelines for fourth grade:

1. Students should bring their own sugar-free gum.
2. A mint flavor is encouraged because peppermint is known to clear the mind.
3. Any student chewing gum in a loud or

disruptive manner will lose the privilege of chewing gum.

4. Mint LifeSaver and Jolly Rancher hard candy will be made available by teachers to help students keep focused.

### Parent Teacher Conferences

The parent teacher conference schedule is finalized and is now posted on the web site. Students are encouraged come to the conference.