

September 2, 2009

Dear Parents,

Homework is an important part of fourth grade. It is designed to provide practice of skills or to be an extension of learning in school. Recreational reading (a minimum of 30 minutes a night at least 5 nights per week) is expected to be done but is not considered to be part of homework. Although there may be some exceptions, about 40 minutes of homework per day is considered appropriate for fourth graders.

Expect homework on Monday through Thursday. No regular homework will be assigned on weekends. Weekends are a great time for reading, individual interests, and family activities. YEA!

It is expected that homework will be completed and handed in on time. The penalty for a late assignment is a weekend assignment chosen by the teacher and/or student. One late assignment star will be issued to each student each quarter. This pass allows an assignment to be handed in a day late with no penalty. Additionally, each student receives a star for their birthday and when they are chosen to be Student of the Week.

Your child needs your support with homework. Support may include working with the child to:

- *Set up an organized place to work to do homework.
- *Decide the best time to do homework.
- *Schedule homework to work with other activities such as family, piano, sports, etc.
- *Check, discuss, and sign the assignment notebook daily.

Other types of support:

- *Encourage your child to complete homework, but do not sit down and do the homework with the student.
- *Ask your child to tell you about what she/he is learning.
- *Keep a regular bedtime, even if homework is not done.

We invite you to check our class web pages often for information. Go to the school web site and find Classroom Pages. Most days, you will receive an email Home Report summary of the day. If your child is struggling with homework or any other issues, please write a note in the assignment notebook, send a note or e-mail, or call me.

Sincerely,

Kathy McNamara

Kathy.McNamara@saintwenceslaus.org