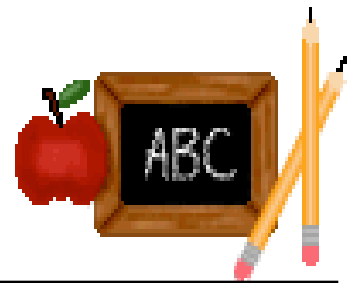
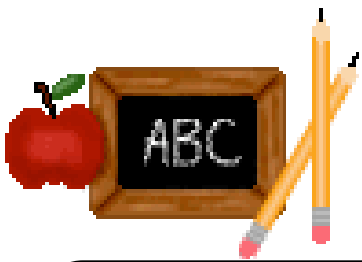


4th Grade News

Mrs. Shaw
Room 22
November 7, 2008



Curriculum Update

E.L.A.: We teach a variety of comprehension strategies at the fourth grade level, and current research demonstrates that there is a strong connection between fluency (accuracy and rate) and reading comprehension (understanding the text, relating it to self/other text/real world). Therefore, I am working to support the children in their efforts to read or decode correctly as many of them believe that a faster reader is a better reader. We have recently been reviewing comprehension skills such as coding text, author's purpose, vocabulary application, and cause and effect.

Congratulations to our classroom spelling bee winners who will be participating in **Monday's Oak Street School Bee**: Lucy McSweeney, Alex Puchalski, Ian Salvamoser, and Niki Rodgers (alternate).

MATH: The 4th graders were eager to begin a new math unit on Wednesday from a supplementary math series called "Investigations." We will be using this series for a more in-depth study of multiplication and division. As you should have seen from their homework, they are working with **arrays** (multiplying the number of items in a row by the number of rows to get a total number of items).

SCIENCE: We concluded our study of Matter with a chapter test this afternoon. The assessment was to determine if students understood different properties of matter and how to classify matter according to those properties, how matter is measured (volume and density), and how changes in matter take place.

SOCIAL STUDIES: Now that the Election Day excitement has calmed a bit, we have resumed our chapter on the geography of New York state. Please help us and let me know if any of you are "experts" on a certain place or region of this large and diverse state of ours!

Parent-Teachers

Conferences

Attached to this newsletter is your conference date and time slip. I did my best to accommodate those families who returned the purple conference forms. If you have a conflict, please contact me as soon as possible so we can reschedule. It is imperative that you attend the conference as we will be identifying and collaborating ways for us (teachers and families) to work together to best support the needs of our 4th grader. While we only have a twenty-minute conferences, I encourage you to write down any specific questions you may wish to discuss regarding your child's academic or social progress. Each parent(s) will receive a conference folder with the child's fall report card, supplemental reports, documents or narratives, and a collection of student work that illustrates best performances and areas of need or growth. I will be having the students complete self-assessments that I will also share so that we can see how your child perceives his/herself.

Some Important Reminders:

1. Monday, November 24th at 2:00 P.M. - our Emergency Early-Dismissal Drill!
 2. No School 11/26 - 11/28 next week.
- Enjoy the holiday weekend! I am very grateful for each of our beautiful and brilliant 4th graders, and I feel very lucky to be their classroom teacher. Thank you so much for all you do to support my work with your children. I wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving.