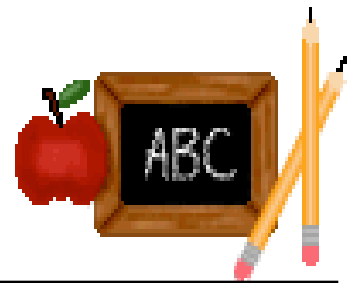
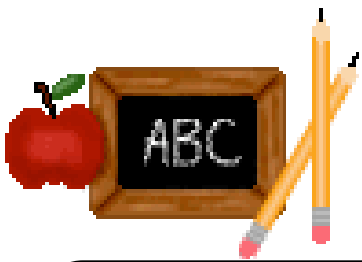


# 4th Grade News

Mrs. Shaw  
Room 22  
November 7, 2008



## Curriculum Update

**E.L.A.:** We have begun reading in small, guided reading groups. **Guided Reading** is an instructional strategy or design that involves the flexible grouping of students according to needs (fluency skills, comprehension strategies, etc.) so that the teacher can provide more individualized instruction and guided practice. While Mrs. Donoghue and I are working with specific groups, the other students are expected to work independently on tasks listed on their weekly **Guided Reading Tickets**. The children may select which item to work on each day and even choose to dedicate more time toward some tasks than others, but I am trying to help students improve in the areas of time management, organization of multiple materials and assignments, and the ability to focus on their own work while there are other things happening in the classroom. The 4th graders will then bring home their completed and checked Guided Reading Tickets and corresponding tasks on either Friday or Monday after their completion. Be sure to check in with your student as to whether or not he/she is attending to all the tasks, the amount of effort being given to the various tasks, etc. I will provide you with information as to how your child is functioning at our parent-teacher conferences next month. Please continue to support your child's efforts on the weekly spelling tests. Because different children have different learning styles or preferences, please contact me if you need suggestions or alternative methods for helping your child study and understand new spelling and vocabulary words.

**MATH:** The 4th graders enjoyed their introduction to algebra this week with new and sophisticated math vocabulary. Be sure to ask your child to explain one of the following terms - variables, algebraic expressions, algebraic equations, etc. We will review Unit 2 next week prior to an end-of-unit assessment on Thursday, November 13th. Students will bring home materials/assignments to help them study for the test on Monday and Wednesday of next week.

## in The News...

**ELECTION DAY** Wrap-Up: I was most impressed by the 4th graders' interest and understanding of our Social Studies mini-unit leading up to Tuesday's Election Day. We learned about the voting process (registering to vote, polling places, ballots), election campaigns, the electoral college, and the role and responsibilities of our U.S. President and Vice President. We also did some online research ([scholasticnews.com](http://scholasticnews.com)) of the two main party candidates and contrasted their plans and philosophies before we held our own classroom election in which Barack Obama received 18 votes and John McCain received 5 votes. The children were highly motivated to learn, share, and be a part of the Election Day excitement! I wouldn't be surprised if we have some future politicians in Room 22! Check out our classroom web site on which I have posted some of the students' thoughts and reflections of this year's election. "TIME For Kids" is arriving and we read/review it on Friday afternoons (after our weekly autobiographical presentation by our 4th Grader Of The Week). The students will bring home their own issues, so please encourage them to read it/share it with you as it usually includes some good discussion or research topics.

Just a reminder that there is No School on Tuesday of next week, November 11, 2008, as we honor our veterans on Veteran's Day.

The Post Card Book Project due date is Friday, November 21st. Please use the rubric for instructions and expectations, but don't hesitate to contact me should you/your child have any questions.

I will be in touch with each family soon regarding a date and time for our December parent-teacher conferences. Thank You!