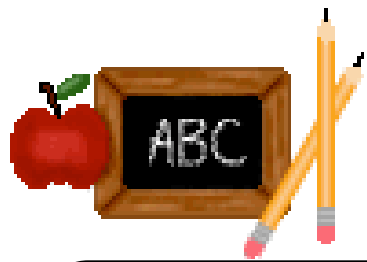
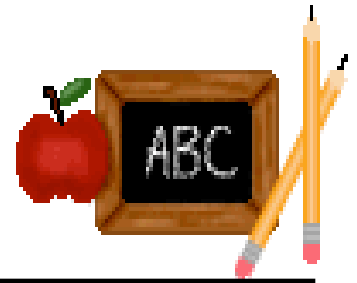


# 4th Grade News



Mrs. Shaw  
Room 22  
September 19, 2008



## Curriculum update

**E.L.A.:** The students in my E.L.A. Block have now completed two weeks of spelling. We have also started reading *Fourth Grade Rats* by Jerry Spinelli in our Literature Circles. We welcomed Mrs. Zales and Mrs. Pike who helped us better understand the Literature Circle format and procedures by modeling their own Lit. Circle.

**MATH:** We will continue our work with Unit One which focuses on Number Sense and Place Value. Many of the students are struggling to remember to add commas and dashes when appropriate and naming numbers in different ways (standard form, expanded form, written form). And we started MAD MINUTE Multiplication Timed-Tests! Students record and monitor their daily progress.

**Science:** The Scientists of Room 22 completed their lessons on the Scientific Method (emphasis on Scientific Inquiry) last week when they worked with partners to ask their own scientific questions (i.e., How long is the life of a light bulb?) and then develop a plan or experiment that would answer the question.

## MATH CORRECTIONS

One of the ways that I work to both reinforce the understanding of the math concepts taught and promote the responsibility of the learner is I require the 4th graders to correct their math homework after it has been graded. If a child has errors on his/her paper, I place it at his/her desk the following morning so that he/she can work on it during independent work time. However, some students tend to get overwhelmed when they have a number of incomplete and/or incorrect papers in their Work-In-Progress Folders. Therefore, I will occasionally (as I did yesterday) assign "Math Corrections" as a homework assignment when students are to then take these papers home in order to get caught up. I try to assist them in the classroom by reteaching concepts, explaining specific problems, and reviewing problem-solving techniques, but many of the children will still need adult support. We are fortunate that many of our parents have offered to volunteer on a regular basis in the classroom, so I will soon be calling on those volunteers to join us and work with small groups of students on Math Corrections. Thank you for the help you provide at home with your child's math homework!

## ODDS AND ENDS

Attached are **Scholastic Book Orders**. If you wish to purchase books, please complete the form, make your check payable to Scholastic Book Clubs, and return both the form and payment to the classroom by Friday, **September 26th** - one week! Also attached are info sheets/permission and payment forms regarding our **classroom website** and **TIME for Kids!**

**4th Grader-of-the-Week:** We began a new student-of-the-week program today. One student will be chosen every Friday to be the next week's class leader (perks include carrying the clipboard, etc.) and to complete an autobiography page that will be shared on the following Friday. Your child may need your help to complete the autobiography page, and I encourage you to have him/her practice "presenting" the autobiography aloud to you as they will be asked to do so in front of the class. We'd love to see pictures too!

## DIFFERENTIATION

As I discussed at our Orientation Meeting, I aim to meet the variety of learning needs present in our very dynamic classroom. There are some students who benefit from the reteaching of material or a clear and smooth pace of instruction, while others are ready to work more independently on above grade-level material. Over the next few weeks, I will begin differentiating our curriculum so that some children will be given alternative assignments or activities that better meet their needs, styles, and interests. There will be times when our whole class is engaged in one common lesson and activity, and there will be other times when there are a variety of things taking place - but all of them have been planned so that the students are learning and growing.