

## March 2010

### Upcoming Dates:

March 4<sup>th</sup>: Menstruation discussion with 4<sup>th</sup> grade girls only

March 19<sup>th</sup> Rising Stars/Career Day

March 22<sup>nd</sup>: NO SCHOOL- Teacher Workshop Day

March 26<sup>th</sup>: Basket Bingo

April 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rising Stars/Career Day

### FEBRUARY BOOK ORDER APOLOGIES:

Unfortunately, through no fault of the company or myself, our book order delivery has been delayed due to a payment problem on one of the checks that was sent in with an order. We have gotten that cleared up, and the company assures me that they are processing the order and it should be along soon. I am sorry for the inconvenience— Please make sure when sending in a check that it will clear. If not, it delays the entire order until payment is sent in.

### Curriculum Updates:

#### Math:

Students continue to work with ALL basic facts. Fact practice should still be happening at home- even if I don't send home fact pages. In class we are working with division concepts. Also, we are working with some geometry as well.

#### Reading:

We continue with reading groups and the "Read to Me" sessions. Students are all working on their chapter books, and have the chance to read and meet one on one with me to word solve, or just read together. If you have time at home, it would benefit the children to be able to read aloud to someone else a few times per week. Reading aloud builds fluency, and a lot of us can use practice in that!!

#### Science:

We have begun our force and motion unit. We have discussed how vehicles move and have built some as well. We have begun to experiment with weight and will continue to work with force topics for some time to come.

#### Social Studies:

Overall GREAT JOB on the Northeast States test!! We are finishing up the unit and will move on to the Southeast soon! You will see another map packet with dates listed next week.

#### Writing:

We are working with Narrative Writing in writing class. We started working on paragraphs, and are moving into narrative essays. Students have written a "Scary moment" narrative, as well as a "Funny Moment" narrative.

#### Language:

We continue to work with Adjectives. We have spent a lot of time discussing articles in class- many children had no idea the difference between using a versus an in sentences. They have a much better idea now!

It is approaching the time of year when we start to make the shift toward 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The majority of the work and lessons are new and getting harder by the day. This is when students show if they are ready to be sent to 5<sup>th</sup> grade or not!

- Students who do not yet have their multiplication facts memorized are at a HUGE disadvantage in math class-it takes them much longer to complete their work in class, and they often have more homework for this reason. If you remember, multiplication facts were due to be memorized before Christmas vacation.
- Students who are not completing work on time are losing points on each assignment that is late.

#### Bikes for Books Program-

Don't forget about our Bikes For Books program- if students complete a paper about a book that they have read (the book should be on the grade level that your child is reading) then they are able to enter their

name in a drawing for a bike. \*\*Please note that the papers that children need to fill out should have a lengthy summary of the plot, including beginning, middle and end. If the book is completed at home, please sign the paper. If you DID NOT see your child reading the book, please do NOT sign the paper. I have received several papers where the back cover of the book was copied and a parent signed it. The student admitted to not reading the books. Books read BEFORE the start of February vacation DO NOT COUNT!!!! Please do not allow your child to fill out a paper on a book that was read before the contest started. We want this program to be a fair chance at winning a bike!!

I have many meetings set up to meet and talk with parents, if you would like to meet to discuss your child, please just let me know.

Have a Fantastic March!

Take Care!!

Mrs. Brewer