

**Dear Fourth Grade Parents,**

**Here is the new format for the classroom newsletter! Enjoy reading what we're up to in the next few weeks, and I hope to see many of you at the BBQ this evening. Have a wonderful weekend!**

**All my best,  
Mrs. Penkala**

**Classroom News:**

- We made it through the first week! ☺
- **Growth mindset:** we will talk a lot about growth mindset this year, but especially in these first few weeks to set the expectations and foundation. We are watching the Class Dojo videos in class and discussing the ideas behind these videos and how we can change our mindset to positive thinking and encouragement. I appreciate you taking the time to talk through the discussion questions with your child and have honest conversations about the importance of positive thinking and believing in ourselves and our abilities.
- **Class novel:** our first class novel will be *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* by Judy Blume. We will read this together as a class, beginning at the end of September. Please help your child secure a copy of this book by **Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup>**. You can check it out from our school library or a local library or you may purchase it if you'd prefer. Please let me know in advance if there are any issues obtaining a copy of this book, so that I can adjust my timeline of starting the book if need be.
- **First Field Trip:** In the month of October, 4<sup>th</sup> grade is in charge of the Spotlight on Service, which is the Oregon Food Bank. We will travel to the Oregon Food Bank on **Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>**. I will be looking for 7 parent volunteers to join us. Please sign up on Volgistics if you are able to volunteer!
- **Room Parents:** Our wonderful room parents are Angie Cunningham and Joanie Bayne. Please let them know if they can be of help to you in any way. I appreciate all that they do for our classroom!
- **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Class:** The students will be evaluated this week and next week in order to be placed into a math class. We take into account the STAR test and the EnVision beginning and end of year test for 4<sup>th</sup> grade. We will also be beginning math lessons in the classroom next week and will use these observations as well. I will notify all parents of their child's math class placement on Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. Please let me know if you have any questions about this process!

**Curriculum Focus for Next Week:**

**Math**

- Meanings of multiplication
- Patterns for facts
- Multiplication properties

- Factors

### **Reading**

- Introduce reader's workshop and expectations
- What do I do when I don't have a book to read?
- When is it ok to interrupt a teacher's small group?

### **Writing**

- Understanding the writing process
- Beginning the saint project
- Spelling: silent letters, frequent spelling patterns for long o
- Grammar: kinds of sentences and complete subjects/predicates

### **Science**

- The nature of science
- What questions do scientists ask?
- What tools do scientists use?
- The scientific method

### **Religion**

- Growth mindset: How can we improve the phrase "I can't do this?" What challenges have we faced that grow our brain? What are strategies we can use when we face a big challenge?

### **School News:**

- **Run 4 Cathedral:** Pledge sheets were sent home this week, so please help your child secure some sponsors to support the run! These pledge sheets are due the day of the run, September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- **STAR Testing:** These assessments will occur next week in reading and math, so please make sure your child gets a good breakfast, has a healthy snack packed and gets a good night sleep.

### **Upcoming Events:**

- Curriculum Night – Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>
- The class novel: *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* due in class – Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup>
- Run 4 Cathedral – September 30<sup>th</sup>

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