



# 4th Grade Happenings

Mrs. Friedman

Issue 13  
November 5

## Lots of Exciting Learning Going On!

### Responsibilities:

- \* **Current Events:** Jordyn, Michelle
- \* **Literature Chart:**  
Jordyn: Ch. 1, 2  
Michelle: Ch. 3, 4

### Due Dates:

- \* **December 3:** Historical Fiction Book Report due  
*Look for project assignment sheets on the school's website.*

### Reminders:

- \* Wednesday, November 7 is both a half day (11:30 dismissal) and a Denim Day.
- \* Friday, November 9 is our first short Friday (2:30 dismissal).
- \* Family Math Night is November 14 at 6:30.

### Language Arts:

This week, students will work on the final drafts of their character letters on Monday and Tuesday. For the rest of the week, students will begin working on their fantasy kingdoms. Just like Ruth Stiles Gannett created a fantasy kingdom for *The Dragons of Blueland* and C.S. Lewis created a fantasy kingdom for *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, so to will the fourth grade. This is one of my favorite projects that I do with the 4th grade. Not only does the project give students the chance to use their knowledge of economics, political science, history, and geography, it allows them to turn up their creativity to the max. This is a very creative group of 4th graders, and I can't wait to see what fantasy kingdoms they come up with this year. On a separate note, students working on spelling will learn six different ways to spell the long 'i' sound. For homework, students will need to complete either Spelling Unit 5 or Wordly Wise Unit 5. They will also need to complete a green WOW word for Fri-

day. Finally, students will need to complete the final copy of their character letter Wednesday night if they did not have time to complete it in class.

### Literature:

This week, we will start reading *The Sign of the Beaver* by Elizabeth George Speare. The book takes place around the time of the French and Indian War and tells the story of a friendship that develops between a European American boy and a Native American boy. We will read the book in literature circles. On Mondays and Wednesdays, students will read two chapters independently and fill in forms in their circle logs. The work that they do not complete in class, they will be expected to complete at home. Then, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, students will discuss the reading in their literature circles. Throughout our time reading the book, students will rotate between five different roles: Story Summarizer, Imaginative Illustrator, Word Watch, Quote Catcher, and Question Creator. Look for more about these roles in next

week's issue.

### Math:

In math, we will spend the earlier part of the week learning how to solve number stories (also known as word problems). Students will learn that when confronting a number story, they will need to complete the following four steps in order to solve the problem:

1. Understand the problem.
2. Plan what to do.
3. Carry out the plan
4. Look back.

Later in the week, students will review the meaning of number sentences and learn how to determine whether a number sentence is true or false. Finally, towards the end of the week, students will learn about the meaning of parentheses in number sentences. For homework, students will need to complete a poster of the 4 steps described above Monday night, complete study links on Tuesday and Thursday nights, and book an airline ticket (more information to follow) on Wednesday night.

**Social Studies on back**

## **Social Studies:**

This week, students will work on their factual, friendly letters for most of the week. Students will need to have their letters completed by Thursday, when we read them aloud in class. Students will also spend time on Thursday working on study guides in class. They will need to complete their study guides for homework Thursday night, and there will be a test on Ch. 4 on Tuesday, November 13.