



# 4th Grade Happenings

Mrs. Friedman

Issue 18  
December 10

## Responsibilities:

- \* **Current Events:** None
- \* **Literature Chart:**  
Michelle: Ch. 19, 20  
Allison: Ch. 21,22

## Due Dates:

- \* **December 11:** Multiplication & Division Picture Book due
- \* **December 11:** Web due
- \* **December 17:** Model & Rough Draft due
- \* **December 20:** Final Copy due
- \* **January 8:** Jewish Book Report due

Look for project assignment sheets on the school's website.

## Reminders:

- \* Wednesday, December 12 is a Denim Day.
- \* Thursday, December 13 is breakfast for lunch.
- \* We will be going on a fieldtrip to the Tennessee State Museum on Wednesday, December 19 from 9:15 to 12:30 to see "Bagels and Barbeque: A History of Jews in Tennessee."

## Help With Writing Portfolios

### Writing Portfolios:

As you know, I am keeping a writing portfolio for each 4th grade student. Originally these portfolios were intended only for the students' formal writing prompts. However, I decided to expand the portfolios to include a wider range of the writing students do in school. I would really like to include the feedback of I gave from the animal stories at the beginning of the year. I would also like to include the reading journals students completed for either *Dragons of Blueland* or *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. Thanks in advance for helping me return these items to school.

### Language Arts:

This week, the majority of students' time in language arts will be devoted to converting their research webs into a unified research report. To accomplish this task, students will complete the following six steps:

1. Write topic sentences for each paragraph
2. Use factual details to support the topic sentences
3. Write an intro that captures readers' attention

and introduces the topic

4. Write an ending that explains what we can learn from the tribe
5. Check for accuracy of information
6. Edit for spelling and grammar

Students will finish writing their body paragraphs by Monday, December 17. They will spend the following week working on steps 3-6 and revising with me. Their final report, which must be written in cursive or typed, will be due December 20. Students working on spelling will be learning different ways to spell the "oi" and "ou" diphthongs. For homework, students will need to complete either Spelling Unit 9 or Wordly Wise Unit 9. They will also need to complete a purple WOW word for Friday.

### Literature:

This week, the 4th grade will read Ch. 19-22 in *The Sign of the Beaver*. Students will read independently on Monday and Wednesday and fill in corresponding role forms in their circle logs. Whatever students do not complete in

class, they will be expected to complete at home in preparation for their literature circle discussions on Tuesday and Thursday.

### Math:

This week in math, students will begin their unit on Decimals and Their Uses. We will start the week by going over basic concepts in decimals using base 10 blocks. We will also draw comparisons between fractions and decimals and discuss what it means to operate in a base 10 system. Once students feel secure with these basic concepts, we will work on comparing and ordering decimals. For homework, students will be expected to finish their multiplication and division story books Monday night, bring home a letter on Ch. 4 Tuesday night, and complete study links on Wednesday and Thursday nights.

### Social Studies:

This week, students will begin their unit on the Southeast by writing a paragraph stating which place in the Southeast they would be most interested in visiting. They will also begin a geography challenge on the region.