



# 4th Grade Happenings

Mrs. Friedman

Issue 8  
October 1

## The Last Very Short Week

### Responsibilities:

- \* **Current Events:** None
- \* **Literature Chart:** Michelle

### Due Dates:

- \* **October 1:** Science Non-Fiction Fiction Book Report due

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

### Reminders:

- \* The Sukkah Dinner is on October 1 at 5:30
- \* There is a 2:30 dismissal Wednesday, October 3 for Shmini Atzeret

### New Spelling Program:

Starting next week, students will be following a new routine to strengthen their spelling and vocabulary. Several weeks ago, students took diagnostic tests to identify their strengths and weaknesses as spellers. Based on the results as well as my own classroom observations, students will be working in either a spelling book called Spelling Connections to improve their spelling or in Wordly Wise to improve their vocabulary. I want to emphasize that neither Spelling Connections nor Wordly Wise are the only times students will be working on their spelling and vocabulary; your child will be working on both these areas throughout the year in a myriad of ways.

In terms of grading, I refigured the categories for language arts, so the spelling/vocabulary category is worth 20% of students' overall grade in language arts. From now on, students will receive one grade per unit, regardless of whether the unit pertains to Wordly Wise or Spelling Connections. I, along with Mrs. Carman and Mrs.

Brown, feel that this new approach to spelling and vocabulary will help students strengthen their language arts skills overall and we look forward to their progress. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to let me know.

### Language Arts:

This week, students will begin working on our first major writing project of the year. Every student will be writing a short story about how animals changed the lives of people and people changed the lives of animals. Students will use what they learned about 4-squares to complete their prewriting this week. Next week, they will use their 4-squares to complete drafts of the stories. After each stage of the writing process, students will get feedback from me about how they can make their writing stronger. When the stories are complete, we will compile them into an anthology entitled *Every Living Thing* after the Cynthia Rylant book students recently finished reading.

### Literature:

On Monday, we will do character reading for Ch. 3 of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. On Tuesday, students will write diary entries for Ch. 3 as Edmund. Aside from AR, there will be no homework in literature this week.

### Math:

In math, we will continue learning about different landmarks (such as mode and maximum) to describe a set of mathematical data. For homework, students will need to complete a study link on Tuesday night.

### Social Studies:

This week, students will be working in partners to read about the experiences and contributions of five ethnic groups that make our country what it is today. After reading about each group of people, students will use both words and pictures to take notes on what they read. There will be a test on the unit next Thursday.