



Fourth Grade News

News and Notes For February 9, 2023

- ✚ Secret Pal Valentine lunch lists and bags are coming home today. Be sure you have some choices from the list for next Tuesday, and your child should spend some time decorating the lunch bag the bag. It is more fun if students DO NOT share who they have as a secret pal. If you have any questions, your child should be able to answer them or send me an email and I will clarify.
- ✚ We had wonderful Book Talks this week. Again, much interest was generated for the stories that others are reading. The children gathered clever items that related well to their story. The next report is a written one completed in class on March 16th. This one will be a Think Tac Toe. The format will be a Think Tac Toe much the same as Tic Tac Toe. Students will pick the boxes across, down, or diagonally then answer the questions in each box. An example would be, compare two of the characters in your story.
- ✚ We have almost completed our chapter book, *Shiloh* and will begin *Castle in the Attic*. This story is about a boy, William, who gets a real-looking stone and wood model of a castle with a drawbridge, moat, and finger-high knight to guard the gates. As William picks up the knight, he comes alive and they are both off on a quest to fight a fiery dragon and an evil wizard so Sir Simon, the knight, can win back his kingdom.
- ✚ Many of the Fourth Graders met or exceeded their goals for Winter MAP testing. Please keep in mind that this is one test area on a single day, midyear, and in no way reflects what they have shown me, or can do, in my class. Remember, the MAP test is a computer-adaptive test. It is uniquely created for each student based on how he or she responds to question. If a student responds correctly the next question will be a little harder, or, a little easier if the student responded incorrectly.

All MAP test questions come from a huge bank of questions with each corresponding in difficulty to a particular RIT score. Because a question with a RIT level of 215 is more difficult or represents a higher level of learning or skill level, than a question from a RIT level of 214, it is possible to measure growth over time. Educators expect RIT scores to

increase over time. Students at lower grade levels tend to show a greater increase in RIT scores during a school year than students in higher grade levels. At higher levels, questions get harder, and the overall growth is a smaller proportion of all that one knows. Anticipated growth rates for each student are based on national norms and should be viewed as “typical,” not expected. If you have any questions email me and I will try to answer them.

Upcoming School Events

Fri., Feb. 10th - No School,
Teacher Curriculum Day

Sun., Feb. 12th Open House
(11:30 am -1:30 pm)

Tues., Feb.14th –Valentine exchange &
Secret Pal Valentine lunch

Mon., Feb. 20st - No School,
President’s Day

Wed., Feb. 22nd - Ash Wednesday,
12:30 Mass & distribution of ashes.

Sat., March 4th – ACS Auction 5 pm
at the Bellweather

Curriculum

Literacy: Wrapping up *Shiloh*, spelling words with a final le, verb tenses and 5-paragraph essay about an animal we love

Math: Daily 5, Fast Facts, problem solving, mixed numbers, common denominators, adding and subtracting fractions

Religion: Steps to Respect (solving problems) & Goal setting

Social Studies: Native American Tribal studies and African Americans in history

Science: Biome cubes (biotic and abiotic features)

Computer Science: IXL Math, RAZ Kids, Science News, Power Point, tech typing, typing a narrative, research

PE: Invasive games, Flasket ball

ART/SPANISH: 3-D giraffe sculptures

MUSIC: Recorders

Thought for the Week

It does not matter how slow
you go so long as you do not
stop.

Confucius

Thank you for your support!

Kerry Thomas

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“May you trust God that you are exactly
where you are meant to be.”

Literacy Tip

Parents can help improve 4th grade reading skills

- *Model good reading habits yourself.*
- *Read the same book your child is reading and take the time to discuss the plot, vocabulary, characters in a daily or weekly “book chat.”*
- *Involve your child in reading directions, recipes, and instructions.*
- *Encourage your child to listen to audio books to model appropriate fluency.*
- *Facilitate a book club for your child and his or her friends.*
- *Encourage your child to read aloud to younger siblings.*

