



# Grade 4 Gazette



October 2009

## "Leaping Into Learning"

### Upcoming Events:



- \* **October 5**  
Blood Drive
- \* **October 9**  
Fall Foliage
- \* **October 12**  
*No School*  
Columbus Day
- \* **October 14**  
*No School PM*
- \* **October 19-22**  
Book Fair
- \* **October 23**  
End of 1st quarter
- \* **October 30**  
Report Cards

### Speaking and Listening

At the end of September and beginning of October, the students chose a desert poem to recite. We will also have other listening quizzes and opportunities for speaking practice through poems, readers theatre and repeated reading.



Dear Parents,

Fall has definitely arrived! October will be a busy month in fourth grade! Next week, we celebrate the conclusion of our environments unit by dissecting owl pellets and going to Knoch Knolls Park for our annual Fall Foliage Party. Students will roast hot dogs, go on a nature hike, and enjoy each other's company while surrounded by the changing colors of the park's trees. Later this month, we will be creating salt dough maps during our Illinois Unit.

There are many events going on around school, too! The annual fall Book Fair will run through Thursday, October 22. You can also help save a life by donating to the PTA's blood drive which will be held on Monday, October 5, in the auxiliary gym. We will conclude the month with a school wide Halloween costume parade on October 30th.

Thank you for your time and continued support at home!

Sincerely,

Mr. Alessia, Mrs. Buresh, Mrs. Pope, Mr. Sumatra, Mrs. Sauer & Miss Wagner

### Reading

The reading skills that will be taught in October include Cause and Effect, Word Relationships, Prefixes and Suffixes, Fact vs. Opinion and Locating Information. We will be using our owl novels, materials from Scholastic, and several stories from the Harcourt anthology to teach these strategies. Some of the stories we will be reading include "Venus Fly Traps," "Donovan's Word Jar" and "Amelia and Eleanor Go For a Ride."

Your child has also received their October Reading Log. Please encourage your child to read at least 100 minutes per week at home and keep track of the minutes. The October reading log will be due back to school on Monday, November 2. Thanks for your support at home!

### Writing

Students will be participating in Paragraph Writing and Crafting Texts Units. Students will identify the essential elements of a sound paragraph, generate parts of a paragraph with specific emphasis on elaboration, and take a paragraph through all stages of the writing process. We will then begin discussing Book Reviews and what helps to form a book review that makes a reader interested in a particular book.

Our focus for grammar in the month of October will be on types of sentences, reviewing subjects and predicates, and then learning about compound and simple subjects and predicates.



### Spelling

Spelling test day for each class varies.

The words in unit six include words with an /ar/ sound. The test for this list will be the week of October 5.

The words in unit seven include words with the /or/ sound. The test for this list will be during the week of October 12.

Unit eight has words with the /ur/ sound as in "care". That test will be during the week of October 19.

Unit nine has words with the /ur/ sound. The test is scheduled for the week of October 26.

### Mrs. Buresh & Mrs. Pope's Math

In Unit Three, students will explore geometry. We will use protractors to measure angles, compasses to draw triangles, learn about angles of polygons, and explore tessellations. The unit three test will be in the middle of the month.

At the end of September, students participated in their first Math Olympiad. Students "competed" against each other to solve a variety of math problems.

Students will then begin Unit Four: Division and will focus on using the Traditional Division method.

### Mr. Alessia, Mr. Sumatra, Mrs. Sauer & Miss Wagner's Math

In Unit Three, students will dive into topics such as multiplication and division, as well as number sentences and algebra. Students will spend time reviewing strategies for multiplication facts, learn a simplified approach to solving number stories, determine if number sentences are true or false, review the use of parentheses in number sentences, and will learn how to solve open number sentences. The Unit Three test will be the week of October 13th.

We will then begin Unit Four: Decimals and Their Uses.

### Social Studies

Our main focus in October will be learning about the Southwestern region of the United States. We will focus on the geography of the land, including the states and capitals that can be found there. Then, the students will have the opportunity to work in "expert groups" to learn more about a topic related to the Southwest's people, economy or resources in order to gain an in-depth understanding of the Southwest.

Later in October, we will change our focus to the "Land of Lincoln." That's right, students will learn all about the great state of Illinois. Students will become experts of our state as they learn about the geography, government, people, and history of Illinois.

