



Fourth Grade Team Longfellow School

September 11, 2009

Ambrosino
Carter
Smith
Sullivan

A Message from your Fourth Grade Team of Teachers

- **Welcome:** The fourth grade school year is off to a great start. Students are becoming familiar with the routine of changing classes as well as classroom procedures.

Reminders:

- **Water Bottles:** It is strongly encouraged that students bring a water bottle from home to minimize distractions and keep focused on learning. On cooler mornings, they should dress in layers, because it can heat up on the third floor by afternoon.
- **Healthy Snacks:** A light healthy snack may be brought into class everyday.
- **School Supplies:** If your child is still missing any school supplies, please check the list on the school's website, or in the office if you do not have internet access available.
- **Scholastic News:** In order to add current events to our social studies curriculum, we have ordered a subscription to Scholastic News for each student. **The cost is \$5.00, and the fee was listed on the supply list.** If you have already paid, we thank you. If you haven't, we would appreciate your sending the money in with your child. If you pay by check, please make your check payable to Scholastic News.
- **Take Home Folder/Assignment Books:** Your child should be bringing home their assignment book and a take home (homework) folder everyday. Please check both for assignments, notes, and other information.

Curriculum Notes:

Reading: Next week fourth graders will begin their first unit in Open Court. The unit is titled Risks and Consequences. The primary aim of this unit is to deepen students' understanding of the many kinds of risks people take and their associated consequences. The inquiry goals in this unit are to deepen the knowledge of risk taking, to learn the consequences of taking or not taking risks, to understand choices involved in taking a risk, to learn why some people are risk-takers while others are not, and to understand what makes people take risks when the consequences can be dire.

Students will be receiving both spelling and vocabulary words weekly to go along with each story. Homework will also be assigned that is aligned to the texts we are reading. Both reading and spelling tests will be given on **Fridays**. Your child should be reading at least 30 minutes a day. Next week the teachers will model how to complete reading logs. Your child will begin doing it on his/her own the following week. **The first reading log is due Friday, September 25.**



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Writing: The fourth graders have been hard at work these past few weeks. In order to get to know one another, students have created *biopoems*, which share information about themselves. Our writers have learned how to draft, organize and publish their thoughts into a poetic format. Our current activity involves utilizing creative ideas in story writing. Students have been working together as a group to write an imaginative and organized plot, which entertains their readers. We have also recently enjoyed sharing our creative writer's notebooks. Lastly, we will soon be introducing students to *personal narratives*, and a variety of writing traits will be modeled in our daily lessons. We look forward to keeping our young writers inspired.

Note: If you would like to donate **plastic sleeves** for our fourth grade writing portfolios, please see the attached handout for further information.

Math: Next week we will be finishing our first Unit of Naming and Constructing Geometric Figures. Beginning the year with geometry makes the point that mathematics is more than numbers and is strongly linked to language and art. Also check that your child is bringing home their Student Reference Book (SRB) every night. This book is a math text that provides definitions, examples, and details about all types of math terms and topics.

Unit 2 Using Numbers and Organizing Data – Students will examine different uses of numbers and review the system we use to record numbers. Students will also review procedures for addition and subtraction of multidigit whole numbers. The unit concludes with lessons involving data collection, organization, display, and analysis.

Science/Health: The fourth grade science classes (Mrs. Ambrosino's / Mrs. Sullivan's) are currently working in the **FOSS Magnetism and Electricity Module**. In this module, students investigate permanent magnets, build circuits, and explore electromagnetism. You can increase your child's understanding and interest in magnetism and electricity by asking him or her to talk about the investigations we are doing at school.

Social Studies: The fourth grade social studies classes (Miss Carter's/ Mr. Smith's) are learning about Illinois's Land and Early People. Students will begin working on a Unit research project – a Presentation on American Indians in Illinois – in class in the coming weeks. Look for requirements and due dates soon.

Homework: Homework is either work that is not finished in school or practice of material that was taught in class. If your child has a busy evening, and homework cannot be completed, remember that the Sunrise Study Hall is open every morning from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. in the media center. Passes are available at the front office. Students may also go to the media center at lunchtime to complete homework.



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P.E.: Your child is required to wear gym shoes in PE class, so they should either keep a pair of gym shoes in their locker, or wear them on the day they have class. Mrs. Ambrosino's class has PE on Friday morning; Ms. Carter's class has PE on Tuesday morning; Mr. Smith's class has PE on Thursday morning, and Mrs. Sullivan's class has PE on Monday morning.

Contact Info: As communication is very important, please contact your homeroom teacher with a note or an email if you have any questions, concerns, or information to share. Our emails are:

mambrosino@op97.org

Mrs. Ambrosino

ccarter@op97.org

Miss Carter

msmith@op97.org

Mr. Smith

csullivan@op97.org

Mrs. Sullivan

If necessary you may also set up meetings before or after school.

Mrs. Ambrosino
Miss Carter
Mr. Smith
Mrs. Sullivan