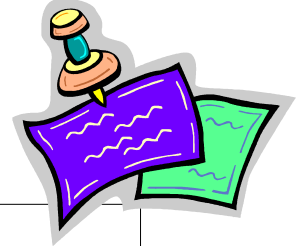


# KEEPING IN TOUCH

November 28, 2011



## Week in Review

### MS. MCTIGHE'S CLASSES

#### Reading

We will continue our work with *The Indian in the Cupboard* this week. We will finish reading it this week, but we may continue doing some activities next week. Our grade level is beginning our mystery unit this week which will run all of December. Students will be working on a fingerprinting unit and creating a profile sheet for their lockers which will include their fingerprints. This sheet will be used later to try to find out who their Secret Pen Pal is. We will be working on two books for this unit: *Howliday Inn* by James Howe and *The Eleventh Hour* by Graeme Base. We will start these as soon as we are done with *The Indian in the Cupboard*. We also will be working on our research of Abraham Lincoln as a model for the research students are doing for their famous person. Our work on analogies will continue as well as our work on the WordMasters words since our competition test is next week.

#### Math

In math we will be reviewing addition and subtraction of whole numbers including subtracting across middle zeroes. We will have a common assessment on this skill on Thursday. We also are working on getting ready to run the School Store this month. We will work on deciding what to order for our inventory this week. Students have been assigned a category item, and they will be working at home on the website of the company we order from, Student Supply, ([www.studentssupply.com](http://www.studentssupply.com)) to choose 3—5 items in that category. Our class will do the final choices by the end of the week. We want to open the School Store before Winter Break so we need to get our class order done. Basic facts this week:  $\div 7$ .

### This Week at a Glance

**Science...**  
Machines in Motion

**Social Studies...**  
Illinois Research/ Midwest States and Capitals

**In the Spotlight...**  
*Character Counts— Respect*

**Writing...**  
Lincoln Research

**Important Dates...**  
Nov. 30— Character Counts Assembly  
Dec. 2—Famous Person Parent Signature Due  
-Wear Yellow for RESPECT  
Dec. 6— Bibliography and Early Life Research Due

#### Notes:

The Illinois Famous Person Packet was sent home Monday. Please read and discuss this project with your child and return the signed front sheet to us by Friday, December 2nd. The rest of the packet is yours to keep at home so you know all the due dates for the project. As always, thank you for all of your help and support!



### MRS. STEFANI'S CLASSES

#### Reading

"A mystery's a puzzle of pieces all askew, putting it together is what detectives do." Today we will begin taking on the role of detectives as we begin reading Howliday Inn. Each day we will read a chapter and complete packet work to go along with what we read. 4th graders typically enjoy the colorful characters in this novel and work hard to solve the mystery. Since this book contains many idioms, I will lead the class in several idiom activities. The students will also begin filling out "Profile Sheets" to post on the lockers that will give other 4th grade students clues about themselves for an upcoming assignment. Secret pen pal letters will also be introduced this week. Our vocabulary words will also focus on the topic of mysteries, and we will keep the same vocabulary list for the next few weeks. There will not be any shared reading or spelling from now until winter break.

#### Math

*This week we will have our second Continental Math Meet on Thursday!*

Our focus on algebra will continue this week. We will continue to work on the skill of writing algebraic expressions. We will also focus on rules, tables and graphs. Tomorrow the concept of algebra will be reinforced as the students read a portion of Edward Zaccaro's book Challenge Math. I like the way this author breaks down algebra into 3 manageable steps. I have created a dance to help remember the steps that I will share on Wednesday. I'm sure your kids would love to show you!☺ When solving algebra problems for homework, I will ask the students to show all their steps because I will give process points as well as points for finding the correct answers. Each answer will be worth 5 points.