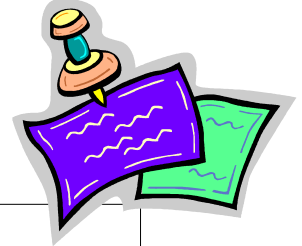


# KEEPING IN TOUCH

December 12, 2011



## Week in Review

### MS. MCTIGHE'S CLASSES

#### Reading

This week we will have fun playing detectives as our fourth graders try to figure out who their Secret Pen Pal is. They will be using all of their new forensic science skills to solve the mystery. Wednesday they will find out if they did indeed figure out their Secret Pen Pal. We'll be doing secret codes and a fingerprinting mystery to keep our detective skills strong. We will continue our work with *Howliday Inn*, and *The Eleventh Hour*. Their fictional mystery book is due Thurs., 12-15. We'll make flash cards for Stem List #4. Logs will be optional during vacation, but I hope they will read some of the days. They will get credit for those days even though there may only be a few a week. Exciting news—our class average for our first WordMasters competition was +15 out of 20! We all were thrilled with the results! All those analogy packets paid off! Thank you for your help at home! Have a wonderful holiday!

#### Math

This week we will be opening and operating the Fourth Grade School Store. We officially open on Thursday this week to sell to all the other fourth grade classes. On Friday we will fill the catalog orders from the fifth graders. Then on Monday we will have an employee shopping day. We are busy working on a song to the tune of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" to use as an advertisement to the fourth and fifth graders, and we will learn about how to fill in a receipt. Tomorrow and Wednesday we will practice the different jobs that are needed to run the School Store. There won't be very much homework this week since we won't have any time to work on any new skills. We will have the ÷ 8 tests next Tuesday. Happy Holidays!

### This Week at a Glance

**Science...**  
Machines in Motion

**Social Studies...**  
Midwest Research

**In the Spotlight...**  
*Tony and Lydia*

**Writing...**  
Lincoln Research Continues as a Model

**Important Dates...**  
Dec. 14-Adopt-a-Child gifts due  
Dec. 16-Chorus Trip to Snow Valley Nursing Home  
Dec. 20-Winter Party

#### Notes:

Contributions research is due **Tuesday, 12-13** and the Illinois Famous Person completed packet is due **Friday, 12-16**. We will keep the completed packets here over break for safekeeping!

Please send in a clean glass jar if you haven't had a chance to already. We will be using it for an art project within the next week.

We wish you and your family a wonderful and restful holiday season!



### MRS. STEFANI'S CLASSES

#### Reading

Today each student will spend some time in the hall searching for clues on the "Profile Sheets" to match the clues included in their secret pen pal letters. Each student will select 3 possible suspects and recorded their names on a form that will be turned in to me. On Friday we will reveal the names of the secret pen pals and let the students know if their conclusions were accurate. We are also continuing to read *Howliday Inn*. Louise and Chester have both disappeared, and the students are keeping track of clues and evidence to try to determine what the crimes are and who is responsible. Small groups are continuing to read leveled mysteries in guided reading. When those books are finished the students will take AR tests on the books and we will fill out contest slips for them. The vocabulary test on the mystery words will be Friday!

#### Math

The Unit 10 tests should be coming home today with your child unless they were not here last Thursday to take it. Now we are moving on to Unit 7 which introduces exponents and negative numbers. Our focus this week will be on exponential notation and powers of 10. I will introduce number-and-word notation for large numbers and exponential notation for powers of 10. Later in the week we will work on the concept of scientific notation (the product of a number that is at least 1 and less than 10 and a power of 10).  
Ex.  $7,000=7*1,000$  or  $7*10^3$   
 $8*10^2=800$