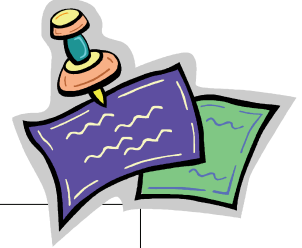


# KEEPING IN TOUCH

August 30, 2010



## Week in Review

### MS. MCTIGHE'S CLASSES

#### Reading

Welcome to AT

Reading! I am very excited about getting to know my new students, and I look forward to a wonderful year! This year we will do most of our reading assignments from books rather than a basal reader. We have several units we will try to do, and the first one is a humor unit. We also will be doing a lot of work on non-fiction books so our students are able to learn the skills of an independent learner who can access the knowledge that is needed. We'll be doing a lot of writing, and much of it will be connected to what students are reading. We also will be doing word study through learning word stems, using the *Elements of Reading: Vocabulary* that they did last year. Mrs. Patty Hurt again will be our part-time gifted facilitator this year, and we enjoy team teaching together once a week on Wednesdays. I look forward to meeting all of you soon!

#### Math

Who would ever guess that Skittles could teach students important math skills? We will kick off our year in math with a fun graphing activity, and we'll eat our way into data collecting. We will create a class bar graph with the wrappers and then we will make individual graphs. We'll also create a poster about numbers that should help students think about how they use math in their lives. I want math to be fun for my students and relevant to their every day lives. We'll be doing some math assessments this week in order to better meet our students' needs. Welcome to 4th grade math! I look forward to meeting you all at Open House on September 14th!

### This Week at a Glance

**Science...**  
Scientific Method

**Social Studies...**  
Illinois Research

**In the Spotlight...**  
*Ms. McTighe*

**Writing...**  
6+1 Trait- Ideas

**Important Dates...**  
Monday, Sept. 6- No School Labor Day  
Friday, Sept. 10- IL Facts Quiz

#### Notes:

We would like to welcome you all to 4th grade! This weekly newsletter should come home each Monday and is our way of keeping you informed of classroom events and activities. It also can be accessed on our district individual teacher web pages. We are excited about our plans for this year and look forward to working with all of you!



### MRS. STEFANI'S CLASSES

#### Reading

Welcome to 4th grade reading! Mrs. Capristo and I have enjoyed getting to know your children so far, and we're anxious to learn more about them as readers. Last week the students took the STAR reading test down in the computer lab. On this test the students selected words that they felt best completed given sentences. This assessment helped to establish their "color range" for Accelerated Reader and also helps me determine guided reading groups. Another assessment that will help us to meet their reading needs is a benchmark assessment that I will be administering on Wednesday and Friday. This assessment will give me insight to how they comprehend material at different levels. Each week during guided reading we will focus on thinking skills that the students should apply as they read in order to better comprehend material. During September there will be a strong emphasis on making connections. I look forward to meeting all of you soon!

#### Math

Welcome to AT Math! I am excited about another year packed with problem solving, calculations, fractions, decimals, algebra and more. We will work primarily with the University of Chicago Everyday Mathematics fifth grade series. Last week the students went on a scavenger hunt through the student reference book in order to get to know where various information can be found. We have some major units that will help dictate the order that I teach individual units. For example, during the 1st trimester we will survey Schiesher students to gather data for a school store that we will open and operate. To help prepare for that, we will learn about graphing, multiplication and division all within the 1st trimester. The first unit focuses on arrays, factors, factor pairs, square numbers, prime and composite numbers, and divisibility rules. Please contact me at any time if you have questions. Thanks!