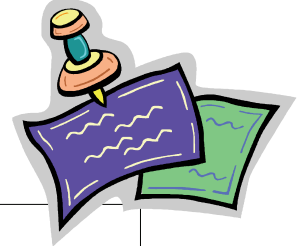


KEEPING IN TOUCH

August 31, 2009



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, and continuing the *Words Their Way* program. 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 15th!

Upcoming Events

Tuesday

Scientific Method Experiments

Wednesday

Scientific Method Experiments
The Illinois Prairie

Thursday

Spotlight: Dr. Kotalik

Friday

Illinois Research

Monday

NO SCHOOL—Labor Day

MRS. STEFANI'S CLASSES

Reading

Welcome to 4th grade reading! I have enjoyed getting to know your children so far, and I'm anxious to learn more about them as readers. Sometime this week or next week the students will take the STAR reading test down in the computer lab. On this test the students select words that they feel best complete given sentences. This assessment helps to establish their "color range" for Accelerated Reader and also helps me determine guided reading groups. 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. This week in writing the students will create timelines of important events throughout their lives to write about as the year goes on. I look forward to meeting all of you soon!

Math

Welcome to AT Math! I am excited about another year packed with problem solving, algebra and more. We will work primarily with the University of Chicago Everyday Mathematics fifth grade series. We have some major units that will help dictate the order that I teach individual concepts. 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. Last week I gave the class an inventory test to help me assess them and determine where my focus should be this year. The results of this inventory test were for information only and will not be averaged into their grades. Please contact me at any time if you have questions. Thanks!

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!

