

It has been a fun-filled and productive time in 4SS! We have been hard at work on state fair, studying magnets and electricity, using Google Earth to study the Midwest, and doing book talks. We also have 2 field trips (1 in-school), and state fair during the next 3 or 4 weeks! Needless to say, students are working very hard and are having a great time as well! I am proud of how much the students have grown over the first three quarters!



Thanks for your continued support!

Announcements/ Reminders:

- April 20 Donuts with Dads
- April 26 "Be Smart, Be Safe" with the NPD
- April 27 No School—School Improvement Day
- May 2 State Fair
- May 3 50 States in 60 Minutes Play & PTA Meeting and Board Election
- May 4 State Fair Party & Muffins with Moms
- May 19 Fine Arts Festival
- May 21 Kendall County Forest Preserve Field Trip

- ☆ Be sure to check our class website daily
- ☆ Please remember that missing work slips are sent home every other week, showing assignments that haven't been turned in yet.
- ☆ We are still looking for volunteers to help with morning and afternoon set-up for State Fair. Please let me know if you may be able to help us on May 2nd.
- ☆ Remember to send in a shoebox and any additional materials for state fair by April 26th!

Reading: We recently finished reading Hoot (a realistic fiction novel) and learned about characterization, why characters may act a certain way, and summarizing. There were also many great lessons/themes in this book relating to the environment, standing up for what you believe in, and determining what's "right". We are currently reading Gregor the Overlander by Suzanne Collins. Students are studying narrative elements and specific features of fantasy books along with analyzing the actions of various characters. We've even compared the book to Alice in Wonderland and "Beauty and the Beast". The kids continue to enjoy Daily 5 time. Many students are working on original compositions, listening to reading, or using the time to read books of their choice. Nearing the end of the year, we will be comparing several nonfiction texts on Caves and several poems to Gregor the Overlander.

Math (Accelerated): Students are currently working on concepts of volume, volume operations of multiplication and division, area of rectangular figures with fractional side lengths, and drawing, analyzing, and classifying 2D shapes. Students have learned in a variety of ways this unit. We've played "Mixed Number Bingo", created our own word problems to create a review game, constructed rectangular prism sculptures (a group inquiry activity), and have used manipulatives to fill rectangular prisms to help us learn. Our next and final unit will focus on writing and interpreting numerical expressions, analyzing patterns and relationships, and graphing points on a coordinate plane to solve real-world problems.

Word Study: At this point in the school year, students have learned 6 syllable types (closed, vc-e, r-controlled, open, consonant-le, and vowel teams) and have identified them in multisyllabic words, identified exceptions, added suffixes to words, and are learning other targeted patterns. Additionally, students are also learning homophones, homographs, and Latin roots. We are using stories, games, word sorts, and other activities to reinforce their learning.

Social Studies: Students have been hard at work on their state fair projects! Along with learning research skills, citing sources, and presenting findings, students are also learning a wealth of information about their states! We have recently started our study of the environment, resources, people, and culture of the Midwest. We will also spend additional time learning more about our home state, Illinois. We did a cooperative activity with Google Earth to identify and learn about important Illinois landmarks.

Books We've Read: *Hoot*, *Gregor the Overlander*, *Alice in Wonderland*, and *A Child's Anthology of Poetry*

Writing: Students have been working on various responses and reflections related to Gregor the Overlander.

Speaking & Listening: Students are finishing up their non-fiction book talks and will begin working on free-choice book talks to wrap up the year. They should be practicing their non-fiction book talks as they're due this week. Their free-choice book talks will be their last book talk of the year. I have seen so much growth in the students' ability to speak in front of their peers and in planning for their speaking opportunities. Students continue to speak informally in front of the class presenting: writing, group projects, and other activities as well.

Science: We are currently focusing on social studies, however, in the upcoming weeks, we will be beginning our inquiry unit on "mystery powders". Students will be utilizing the scientific method to conduct a real "FBI Investigation" utilizing various ways to classify and categorize various powders.

Thank you again for all that you do to support your children. Your help enables them to grow and improve every day. I am proud of each and every one of them!

-Mr. Sabovik

