

We have had a wonderful beginning to the school year. Who would have thought the first three weeks of school would go by so fast and with so much learning and many smiles? The students have done a great job learning the new routines in 4th grade and rising to the new expectations of a new classroom. Students have dived head first into "school mode" and are doing some great thinking. I look forward to telling you about our curriculum and our classroom at curriculum night on Wednesday.



Thanks for sharing your child with me!

Announcements/ Reminders:

- Sept. 17 Curriculum Night 6:30-8:00 PM
- Sept. 26 Progress Reports go home
- Oct. 13 Columbus Day—NO SCHOOL

- ☆ Parent letters about your child are DUE!!
- ☆ Be sure to check our class website daily!
- ☆ Log into Edline to ensure you have access.
- ☆ We have begun BYOT, so students may begin bringing in devices.
- ☆ All in-school snacks should be peanut-free.

Reading: We have nearly finished reading Edward Tulane (our first anchor text) in our unit on journeys. Throughout the unit, we have been comparing and contrasting the story to various poems as well as The Velveteen Rabbit. We are becoming more familiar with close reading and are learning a lot about character development. We are learning new reading strategies such as: "Check for Understanding" and "Cross-checking". Students have also been learning about the various options for Daily 5 (read to self, read to someone, listen to reading, word work, and work on writing).

Math (Accelerated): We began the year reviewing place value and patterns with place value. We have been working on rounding and comparing decimals and whole numbers. Students are also learning to write numbers in standard, expanded, and number and word form. During the next few weeks, students will begin adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing whole numbers and decimals through number stories and various activities.

Word Study: We began the year looking at closed syllable words. We are now working on compound words, and multi-syllabic, close-syllable words. We will continue to learn homophones, homographs, and do various sorts, spelling stories, word ladders, and other activities to enhance our learning.

Social Studies: We have just begun our unit on maps and globes. Students are learning the parts of a map, how to use latitude and longitude, as well as geography of the world. Students will create a "Map of Me" as their culminating activity. I look forward to seeing their creativity!

Books We've Read: *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, *The Velveteen Rabbit*, *Too Many Toys*, *Once Upon a Cool Motorcycle Dude*, and *Word After Word After Word*

Science: Our classroom is in full bloom! The students have planted terrariums to help us study the process of plant growth and water tolerance. Students have been watering and measuring their plants for over a week now. In about a week, our crickets will arrive to inhabit the students' terrariums. Students will then begin to study food chains and the food web.

Writing: Going along with our study of characters, we have also been learning about the narrative elements of setting, problem, plot, and solution. Students have begun developing their own narratives (real life or imagined) and will follow the writing process in creating these wonderful pieces!

We've had an outstanding beginning to the year! I look forward to meeting you and working with your children every day.

Speaking & Listening: We will begin working on book talks soon. Students shared their summer memory items and have done various informal class presentations.



Mr. Sabovik

