

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 enjoyed seeing many of you and telling you about our curriculum and our classroom at curriculum night.



Thanks for sharing your child with me!

Announcements/ Reminders:

- Oct. 3 World Café
- Oct. 5 PTA Meeting
- Oct. 6 Donuts with Dad
- Oct. 9 Columbus Day—NO SCHOOL
- Oct. 16-20 Character Counts Week
- Oct. 17 Picture Retakes

- ☆ Parent letters about your child are DUE!!
- ☆ Be sure to check our class website daily!
- ☆ We have begun using our Chromebooks, so students should be bringing their charged Chromebooks to school each day.
- ☆ 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 been comparing and contrasting the story to various poems and will also be comparing it to The Velveteen Rabbit. We are becoming more familiar with close reading and are learning a lot about character development. Students have also begun learning about the various options for Daily 5 (read to self, read to someone, listen to reading, word work, and work on writing). Students will begin working on their reading response journals, where they will write a letter to me about the book they're reading at home or during Daily 5 time. Most students will be using Google Docs to write their journals to me. Due to our large book order, we were able to add many books to our classroom library! Thank you!

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 word form. Starting later this week, 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: This week we will begin our unit on maps and globes. Students will be 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. They will create an imaginary place with landforms, bodies of water, etc. and include all the parts of a map that we will be learning about. I look forward to seeing their creativity!

Books We've Read: *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, *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, culminating with our owl pellet dissection and a visit from the Willowbrook Wildlife Center. They will be bringing live owls, falcons, and/or eagles to Owen for us to learn about!

Writing: Going along with our study of characters, we have also been learning about the narrative elements of setting, problem, plot, and solution. Students will be 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 working with you and your children every day.

Speaking & Listening: Students shared their summer memory items and have done various informal class presentations. Students will be learning about their first book talks and the selected genre in the next few days. Keep an eye out for the selected genre as well as a rubric. An example of an outstanding book talk will be posted on our Google Classroom page for students to utilize in developing their book talks,



Mr. Sabovik

