

The 4th Grade News

May 2012



Important Dates

**4th Grade
Concert
May 23rd**

**Concert DVDs
can be ordered
through May
25th**

**Unity Night
May 15th**



From the Teachers

We'd like to take this opportunity to wish our fourth graders the best of luck at Meridian. We are so proud of them!

Language Arts

Students continue to grow as mature and independent readers, enjoying a variety of genres. They have each displayed more self-confidence preparing and presenting their Book Talks to their peers. All students are currently using non-fiction reading strategies with informational texts while researching animals as part of our ecosystem unit in science. They will complete a creative research project and share it with their class.

Math

In our current math unit the students are learning about the many uses of percents and how they are used in everyday situations. They are learning equivalent values for percents, fractions, and decimals. For example, 50% is equivalent to the fraction $\frac{1}{2}$ and to the decimal 0.5. Converting easy fractions such as $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{10}$, or $\frac{3}{4}$ to decimal and percent equivalents should become automatic. The students are also learning to use a calculator to convert fractions to percents. They will understand how to calculate discounts and sale prices. All students are expected to master multiplication and division facts by the end of fourth grade. Ongoing review during the summer months would be very beneficial!

Social Studies

Our final unit in social studies will focus on the Southwest region of the United States. The students will apply what they learned about the geography, economy, natural resources, and climate of this region as they continue to understand the interdependence of the regions.

Science

In science, the students are learning about ecosystems and have worked together in a group to build a terrarium and an aquarium. Each group added live animals such as crickets and isopods to the terrariums, as well as fish and snails to the aquariums. By observing and caring for these mini ecosystems, the students are learning how these communities of living and non-living organisms are interdependent on one another. One little change can affect the whole ecosystem! Students are sharpening their observation skills by noting subtle changes in plant and animal life.

Finally...

As we wind down toward the end of the school year, we would like to thank you again for your continued support with the children throughout the year. We especially appreciate all the help we received chaperoning field trips, organizing classroom parties, and creating great Art in Action lessons. We truly appreciate it all!

Sincerely,
The Fourth Grade Team
Ms. Faierson
Ms. Hachikian
Mr. Nelson
Ms. Weiner

