

#512 NEWS LETTER



November



MARK YOUR CALENDARS



November 1-21	Fall Conferences
November 10	Holiday-No School
November 21	Early Release
November 22-24	Thanksgiving Break
November 27	Interims Sent Home

POWER HOMEWORK REMINDERS

Please make sure your child completes **at least three** homework choices per week. If they want to do more than three, that is great! Students will receive raffle tickets for every homework choice that they complete and turn-in. Every Friday we have a raffle drawing--this drawing determines which student will be our next VIP! The VIP student has a special seat in the classroom and earns a small box of goodies filled with some of their favorite things. Students can also earn VIP tickets for demonstrating acts of kindness, being responsible, earning extra SPOT tickets, and going above-and-beyond on their classwork.

Power Homework Class Leaders: Elsayh, Leah, Zoey, Leo, Lily, and Mili

NC CHECK-IN MATH ASSESSMENT

NC Check - In

The NC Check - Ins are administered throughout the school year to provide teachers and parents with immediate feedback for guiding subsequent instruction. Participation in the NC Check - Ins is voluntary and open to all schools for the 2017 - 18 school year. Fourth graders will take the math NC Check - In on **November 13th** at 9:15 am.

The Basics

- The test is aligned with the fourth grade Common Core Standards.
- The test is 20 multiple choice questions.
- Students will have two hours to complete the test.
- The test is online and students will take the test in the computer lab.
- There is a possibility that some of the test questions may include standards that have not been taught yet in first quarter.
- Students' scores will not be factored into their report card grades.

For more information, please click the [link](#).

Book Tasting

There are so many **reasons** to have a book tasting and so many **purposes**. My **#1 reason** to have a book tasting is to share the love of reading. There is no standard to be taught here, but as a reading teacher, it is one of my biggest goals--to show children the joy that reading can bring to their lives!

Now for **purposes**, I plan to take this event and make it fit our needs in fourth grade. Here are a few of the ways I use a Book Tasting in my classroom:

1. Book Clubs -I want students to choose what book they will enjoy reading next for independent reading.
2. New Books - Humans are creatures of habit. Therefore my students tend to read books by the same authors or of the same genres. I wanted to introduce my students to books that they may not have picked out on their own.
3. Genres - When teaching genres or wanting to spread students through a variety of genres, this is a great introduction. I can have students look at books from Tall Tales, Fairy Tales, Historical Fiction and all sorts of other genres!
4. Read Aloud - I also use the Book Tasting activity to allow students to have a say in the type of book we choose to read together as a class.

What We're Learning...

Essential Question for Unit 3 is:

How do good readers use text structures and features to understand nonfiction texts?

Standards:

- RI.4.2 - Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text
- RI.4.5 - Describe the overall structure (e.g., chronology, comparison, cause/effect, problem/solution) of events, ideas, concepts, or information in a text or part of a text.
- RI.4.7 - Interpret information presented visually, orally, or quantitatively (e.g., in charts, graphs, diagrams, time lines, animations, or interactive elements on web pages) and explain how the information contributes to an understanding of the text in which it appears.

Students are currently reading nonfiction texts.. We are working on identifying text features and explaining how text features aid in the comprehension of the information within the text. This is a TOUGH concept. I have been asking students to use specific sentence frames that assist them in providing complete answers with text evidence. These sentence frames have helped a ton!

We will also be working on identifying the main idea of a nonfiction text and supporting the main idea with key ideas and details. It is important that students understand the difference between determining the main idea of nonfiction and summarizing fiction texts.

Research, Research, Research...

Students are currently working on their first research project of fourth grade! Last week we brainstormed possible research topics as a class and voted. The majority of students were interested in researching a Fortune 500 Company. Most of the research can be done at school, but there is a possibility that students will have to visit the local library to find additional resources. Each student has a writing packet that clearly outlines each stage of the writing process. I will be focusing most of our writing time to notetaking. This is such an important skill and I want students to understand proper note taking skills.

After Thanksgiving break, students will be starting a HUGE research project--it is called the Fourth Grade Wax Museum. A ton of information will be sent home just before Thanksgiving break, so stay tuned!

Subtraction, Division, Geometry Oh My!

Students are currently learning how to divide using the Area Model and Partial Quotients Model. I have videos on my classroom website on how these two models work--please check out the videos if you have time! Students are responsible for dividing 2-digit, 3-digit, and 4-digit dividends by a 1-digit divisor. Division is always a tricky concept, especially if students do not have their multiplication facts memorized...so keep working on those facts! A big majority of second quarter will be geometry focused. This unit is heavy on vocabulary so I will be having students make flashcards in class and take them home to study as a POWER Homework choice. During the geometry unit students will be building a replica of the city of Charlotte using geometric figures! Just like the House Project, parents will be invited in to see the final products!

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180 Days of Science

Wake County has updated our science curriculum and we are now expected to teach 180 days of science. The fourth grade team has worked hard to make sure that we accommodate all of the new science standards, while still providing sufficient social studies instruction. To ensure that all standards are covered, I will be integrating a majority of the social studies standards during the reading block. I'm excited for this new challenge and I think that many of the reading standards align perfectly with the social studies standards.

Earth History

We are currently studying the history of the earth. During this unit students will study...

- Rocks and Minerals
- Weathering
- Erosion
- Slow Processes of Change: Weathering, Erosion, Flooding
- Rapid Processes of Change: Volcanoes, Earthquakes, Landslides
- Landforms



HOW CAN YOU HELP AT HOME?

Multiplication Fluency

Multiplication Fact Fluency is essential to student success in this unit, and for units to come. Please practice multiplication facts daily to build fluency. One of the homework choices this past week was a multiplication game that only required a deck of cards. This would be an excellent way for students to practice their multiplication facts--even just playing one or two rounds each night would be helpful!

Nightly Reading & Discussion

Your child should be reading for at least 30 minutes per night, every night. Please try to encourage your child to be reading the same book--meaning that they should read a book cover-to-cover. I have noticed in class that students are quick to put a book down after only reading a few pages, and I'm trying to encourage them to read at least a few chapters before choosing a new book.

Students are allowed to check out books from the Salem Elementary library as well as from my classroom library. They should always have books that they can bring home to read!



CONTINUED COMMUNICATION

Email (plaug@wcpss.net): Please feel free to email me anytime with questions or concerns!

Classroom website (www.mrslaug.weebly.com)

Remind Text Messages I use the Remind App to send parents reminders throughout the week. To join and receive text messages, text: @room512se to 81010

Friday Foldens Friday Folders are used as a weekly communication tool between home and school.

Classroom Twitter I've been "tweeting" out exciting things that students are learning in Room 512. You can follow me @paigelaug.

