

Miss Hoffman's Newsletter

November 17 – December 5, 2008

Hello Parents! It is that busy time of year again for all of us, especially in the 4th grade. Let me fill you in on what we have been working on, and what is around the corner.

Math – We are finishing our topic of geometry and are planning to have a test on Monday November 24, and Tuesday November 25. This test does take two days to complete. We have also completed a math exemplar to help us prepare for ISAT testing. You will see this in the papers that are sent home this week. We will start a new math unit after Thanksgiving.

Writing - We have finished our Ideal Job papers, and they will be coming home this week. I found it very interesting to learn about what our class wants to be when they are older.

Currently we are writing a five-paragraph paper titled: Animal Discovery. The kids are imagining that they are on a photo safari in Africa and they discover a new animal, which is made up of two existing animals. Maybe they discover an Elephabra...a combination of an elephant and a zebra??? Students will describe what the animal looks like, what it eats, and where it lives.

Our other fun project; will be making a gingerbread house and describing how we made it. This will be a first, next, then, last, finally paper, and not written in the five paragraph form. We will be constructing the houses on Monday December 8th at 1:30. Please see the letter coming home today if you would like to volunteer to help with assembly. It is fun, but messy! ☺ Also, **We are in need of donations of white frosting, gram crackers, and candies for decorations for this project.**

Spelling - No Spelling the week of the 24th. Unit 13 will be the week of the 1st, and is about r-controlled vowels.

Social Studies - We have started our next region the “West” (chapters 12 & 13). This will take us to winter break. We will have a test on this before break, Thursday December 4th. A study guide will be coming on Tuesday November 25. The study guide will be on outline of topics that will be covered on the test, not in an exact word for word format as before. We will review the day before the test.

December 8th through winter break we will focus on a Hawaiian story Princess Kaiulani and numerous Hawaiian articles to learn about the culture. This will culminate on December 19th with the Hawaiian dancers! All students must know all 11 states for that region as well as their capitals. **Spelling is essential!** (Please note that study guides will come home in an outline format from now on.)

Science - We are continuing with “Matter on the Move”. We took our test for Topics 1 - 4 on Wednesday November 19th. We are now moving onto topic 5: Heat. This will be our last topic for Quarter 2. We started this topic with an experiment that the students really enjoyed. I had them stick their hand in a bucket of ice water, and timed how long they could comfortably keep their hand in the water. Then I had them put on a glove, and covered the glove with lard. This was to represent blubber. Then the students put their hand back into the ice water and I timed them again. We could see a difference in the amount of time, and understood how blubber can help keep arctic animals warm. We will take a final test on this topic, tentatively set for, 12/3/08.

Reading - Reading groups are running smoothly. I have changed the groups from Monday, Wednesday, Tuesday, Thursday groups to ABCDE groups. This way I am not missing groups because we do not have school on a Monday, or because of a special. We are rotating through, just as we would for our specials.

Dates to know –

- Wednesday November 26 – No School – Institute day
- Wednesday November 26 – Miss Hoffman and her parents fly to Poland for break (after the institute...I’ll be back for Monday.)
- Thursday November 27 – No School – Thanksgiving
- Friday November 28 – Thanksgiving (Leftover Turkey Sandwich Day!)
- Wednesday December 3 – Science Test ???
- Thursday December 4 – Social Studies test of the West
- Saturday December 6 – WG Holiday Store
- Monday December 8 – Make gingerbread houses
- Friday December 19 – Holiday Party!! Winter Break Begins
- Monday January 5, 2009 – Back to school.