

WAA Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 4

December 2009

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WOODBURN SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17TH
WOODBURN HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
7:30-9:00PM

ARTHUR ACADEMY BOARD MEETING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17TH
DAVID DOUGLASS ARTHUR ACADEMY
7:00PM

No AM Bus Service

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2ND

WINTER MUSIC CONCERT

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15TH
MIDVALLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH
6:30PM

K-1 FIELD TRIP – CHARLOTTE'S WEB

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9TH
THEATER WORKS, PORTLAND
BUS LEAVES AT 8:30AM, ARRIVES BACK TO WAA AT 12:00PM

WINTER BREAK

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21ST - SUNDAY, JANUARY 3RD



School News:

- ❖ Kindergarten, First, and Second Grades will be going on a field trip on Wednesday, December 9th. We will be seeing the play, Charlotte's Web, in Portland. If you have not yet returned your child's permission slip, please do so as soon as possible. If your child will not participate in the field trip, please do not bring your child to school on this day, as there will be no additional staff to watch your child.

- ❖ Don't forget the Winter Music Concert on Tuesday, December 15th!!! The concert begins at 6:30pm, so please make sure your children are at the church by 6:15pm. Uniforms are not required; please dress nicely.

- ❖ Please come in to look through the Lost & Found before Winter Break! There are so many great articles of clothing that have been left behind, please claim them!

- ❖ Following Winter Break, school will resume on Monday, January 4th

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Kindergarten News

Hello Families,

As the school year heads into the last month of 2009, I want to offer my gratitude to the wonderful families of Kindergarten class. I also appreciate all the parents who attended their child's conference during this very busy time of the year. If you were unable to attend the conferences, please feel free to re-schedule. The conferences were a great opportunity to discuss how well your children are progressing in this school year, and to exchange critical observations between us.

Math

The gains that the Kindergarteners are making in math are electrifying. Before the thanksgiving break, they had just finished the fourth math test and we will forge forward learning the 50's set of numbers (50-59). We will continue to practice 1-49 out of sequence, so that the children are firm on these number sets. We have also begun to start single digit subtraction to expand to the addition number sets that we have been already learning. Besides all these exciting concepts, we are beginning to introduce oral story problems for the students to decipher if it is subtraction or addition and how to solve the problems independently.

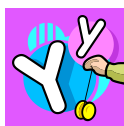
Reading

The reading groups are progressing in a rapid manner as well. The students are able to start to read words within the classroom or within books, which is very exciting. All of the groups are doing a great job sounding out the individual parts of the words before saying them fast. The first group just finished lesson 45 and are beginning to increase the words that they can identify. In this group, they are still strongly working on when we break a word into parts to say all the parts when we say it fast. For example, "rrrrraaaaaammmmm" turns into "ram" when said fast. The next two groups are both in the same conceptual area and are they are learning the same new sounds, however are just three lessons apart. One group is lesson 57 and the other group is on lesson 54. At this point, in the Reading Mastery program these two groups are exponentially learning smaller words and they are increasing the sounds that they know very rapidly. The final group just started to get reading homework that needs to be read each night to a parent or older family member and returned the following day. This group just started lesson 91 and will start doing checkouts where they will be evaluated on how accurate they can read a story in a specific time period. These checkouts will be individually tested.

We are starting a new unit after break, "Settlers in North America" which will be a creative new social studies unit. Another subject that we will start for the first time is spelling. Once we start spelling, this will drastically improve the children's writing abilities. Be ready for lots of "notes" as children discover the power of being able to write!

Our class has been doing a great job at bringing in Pennies for the Penny drive and Box Tops for both competitions. Keep up the great work! Thank you to all the families for such a great few months in 2009 and as we finish December strong academically, I am so impressed by how eager to learn your children are and hope to continue this spark in 2010!

Sincerely,
Ms. Healy-Tuke
Britt.HT@gmail.com
503-981-5746



First Grade News

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving! As we head into the last few weeks before the New Year, our class will begin to learn about Ancient Egypt (a First Grade favorite!) through various art projects and stories. We are also continuing working cooperatively in groups to achieve a common goal; practicing taking turns, using kind language, and helping others.

The Red Reading Group is working hard on reading and spelling new and more difficult words. We are just about to start one of my favorite story series, *Boo the Ghost* where we will continue working on "e" at the end rules, double consonant words ("mopping" vs. "moping"), as well as diving deeper into story content and comprehension. The Green Group is just beginning to learn the "e" at the end rule, practicing words like "fin" and "fine," eventually reading without some of the visual cues (or hats over the letters, as we call them). As we progress through the stories you will notice this in the homework. The Yellow Group is working so hard and has covered so much ground this year! They are still receiving two doses of Reading per day and are just beginning to get homework *stories*, as opposed to lists of words! Please be sure to have your child practice the homework at least twice per evening, three times if you feel your child struggles a bit with the story.

Our Math pilot program is going extremely well; we have introduced quarters and counting by 25s, so a great way to practice is to have your child count out money for you, since we have now learned all the coins, as well as bills. We are working on column addition and subtraction all the way into the hundreds, as well as hundreds place value and number families. There is so much we are mastering! Our Fun Math group is doing a great job working on addition and subtraction; the best way to practice at home is with addition and subtraction using teens numbers. Keep up all the great work! As always, I am more than happy to provide extra math practice sheets for your child at home, so please don't hesitate to let me know if you would like some!

Spelling lists will be sent home as we increase our Spelling vocabulary, so be sure to practice those several times each night as well.

Thanks for the great conferences, and please email or call with any questions/concerns!

Ms. Topley
ltopley@arthuracademy.org

Second Grade News

Dear Families,

It was wonderful to meet with all of you during conference time; It is amazing how much a child learns and grows in a matter of months. That is why it is crucial to keep the lines of communication open between school and home, so that we may share your child's progress and increase the opportunities towards success.

Our class is making magnificent progress in reading. The Purple group is continuing their explorations through reading a variety of literature from well-known authors and is working on expanding their comprehension with Ms. Noonan. The Green group has been mastering fluency and accuracy skills through Reading Mastery III. I am encouraging these students to further their comprehension skills by going over the story questions at home. There are many scientific and historical facts they are absorbing through these stories. It is critical that they focus on the comprehension in order to retain this information. Please quiz your child with these questions after they have read you their story. The Red group is also working on fluency and developing a deeper phonemic awareness through fun stories in Reading Mastery II. This group will be starting RM III soon, and their stories are slightly different. There are key vocabulary words you will notice at the top of the page. Please make sure your child practices and reads these words accurately. The yellow group is also working hard and making rapid gains. They are working on building letter recognition and blending sounds in Reading Mastery I. It is crucial that these children read their stories, at the very least, once a night. The more that they practice their fluency will increase and so will their other reading skills.

All of these groups are working very hard towards developing essential skills as readers. Reading with your child is a great way for you to share and assist in their education. Please make sure to sign the story after you read them (at least once) each night so that your child gets credit for their hard work. You are a key element in their progress towards becoming great readers. Thank you.

We currently have three math groups. Our largest group just finished Test 9 in CMC B. The majority of the students received a 90% or higher. If your son or daughter does not receive a passing score, I will send home an extra math packet to assist your son/daughter with the skills they need to practice. Please make sure they do this extra practice so that they may better their understanding of mathematics and increase their success rate here at school. This group is focusing on counting by 2,4,5,9,10, and 25's. They are also learning basic multiplication skills, borrowing and carrying, and working with money. The other two groups are working with Ms. Topley and Ms. Pacheco, using our Fun Math program. These students are working on number recognition, counting on, basic addition and subtraction. All of the students are working hard and making great progress in their groups. Please continue to work on the additional math practice that is sent home each week. This extra practice will help your son/daughter develop essential skills in mathematics.

The children are continuing to write letters to their pen pals in Illinois. We will continue our studies in basic geography of the Americas. The children will be working towards developing a basic understanding of North, South, and Central America, as well as Canada. Please be looking for additional information on this unit in the weeks to come.

Book orders are DUE DECEMBER 5TH. There are many great gift ideas that are very affordable. What better gift than literacy during the holiday season☺

If there are any parents who would like to volunteer in the classroom, please email or call me. As you know with our program there are daily stories that the children bring home. I am always in need of help copying. Many of you know that our enrollment is still lower than it could be. This greatly impacts both our school and staff. If there are any families that you know who might be interested in attending our school, please let us know. There are still openings in several classrooms.

Please continue to check your child's backpack for weekly newsletters and homework packet every Wednesday. Also, if you have not received an email from me this year, the chances are I do not have your address. Please email me so that I have this information so that we may better our communication about your child's time here at school. Happy Holidays everyone!

Sincerely,
Abbey Brown

Abbey Brown

THIRD GRADE NEWS

Dear 3rd grade Families,

It was a great meeting and seeing everyone over conference week. Thank you all for taking time out of your busy day to meet with me. I was thoroughly impressed by your 100% attendance! I also hope everyone had a great rest of the week and got plenty of rest, family time, and most importantly, mashed potatoes and turkey.

As you finish your turkey day leftovers, allow me to fill you in on where we are in our reading groups. Ms. Pacheco's RM III group is now thirty lessons from advancing into RM IV. Our goal is to be there by mid January. The checkouts have been extremely consistent and over 90% are passing on their first try. My RM IV group gets to start the post Thanksgiving week with the lesson 50 test. The students have continued to fly by the checkouts at an astounding 99% passing rate! The groups are making great progress overall. However, that doesn't mean a little extra reading practice at home couldn't help! Keep those reading logs coming!

We have also made great progress in math. I still have two groups, one that just finished the lesson 50 test, and the other just finished the lesson 80 test. I will be making some adjustments to these groups this month, and a few students might be moving to the higher group.

As I told most parents, students will be coming home with spelling lists to help them better prepare for tests. We will be taking the test for lesson 40 this week, so please help your child study from the list. All the words in the lesson 40 section and prior are fair game for the test. Good luck students!

Finally, I would like to recap with a few announcements. First, the students will be receiving a new Roman study packet later this week (part 2! Don't worry... the sequel is just as good as the first). Second, there will be a class pick up day on Saturday, December 5th. This month is our class's turn to help clean the school grounds. Anyone without plans this weekend is invited! We start at ten and end at noon.

Thanks again everyone for all the hard work that's gone into making this a successful school year. Hope to see you Saturday!

Sincerely,
Mr. B

Fourth Grade News

Greetings Fourth Grade Families! I can't believe that November is coming to a close already and December is upon us! It was so wonderful meeting and chatting with all of you about your student at conferences last week. I always love meeting parents and putting a face to the people that I hear so much about each day in the classroom! It has been another very busy and productive month here, with both reading and math groups doing well and working hard. I again would like to thank you for continuing to listen to your student read his or her reading story to you nightly. Please continue to do this and sign it when he/she finishes. This assignment really improves fluency, aids in reading group success, and gives you a sense in how your student is progressing. Students may also be bringing home some math homework from time to time. Also be on the look out for spelling lists. I will be sending home a list of spelling words with students on Mondays. They will have the week to study and practice these words at home and will have a spelling test on Friday. Please help your students study these words throughout the week for a few minutes each night. Doing this will not only help them on their spelling tests each Friday, but also with retaining the words to use in their writing.

Reading Groups: The blue group continues to cruise through Reading Mastery V with ease and will hopefully be finishing up the first book, which ends at lesson 60 just before the winter break. All students are doing an amazing job on their independent work, mastery tests, and checkouts. It is a real joy to work with this group as they continue to soar! The green group, which meets with Mr. Bennassi, is very close to finishing Reading Mastery IV and will be starting Reading Mastery V soon! This is very exciting, more than half the class will be reading at a fifth grade level before the middle of the year! The red group is still meeting with Ms. B. and they continue to work in the Decoding B2 program. Recently, you may have noticed some of the same stories coming home. This is because the group is not yet at mastery with these lessons and we do not move ahead until mastery is achieved. I would like to again stress the importance that students in this group read their homework to you. Please listen carefully and try to correct the mistakes they make if possible. It is essential that these students get the extra reading practice. Again, if you are unsure what reading group your student is in just ask them!

Math Groups: The Decagon group has recently taken test 90 in CMC D. As I told many of you at conferences, students in this group may be bringing home some math independent work to finish from time to time, but they should not be spending more than about 20 minutes to finish this work. The Blue Stars are gearing up to take test 50 in CMC D. I do continue to send home one short math worksheet with students in this group each night. If you want to help your students with math please practice multiplication facts with them or ask them what questions we talked about/did our daily math. Each day we practice our math skills as a whole group, firming up concepts ranging from geometric shapes to story problems and fractions.

Whole Group: As a class, we are learning about the world around us, studying latitude and longitude, practicing our cursive, and working hard on becoming better writers. Over the past couple of weeks, we have been writing descriptive paragraphs with topics including: our favorite character from the Wizard of Oz and also our favorite room or place. We have now moved on to expository writing. Again, I would like to tell you how impressed I am with the writing skills of these students.

Our classroom continues to run smoothly and it is a

Fifth Grade News

Hello Parents! I hope that everyone had a nice and relaxing Thanksgiving. I know that I was quite stuffed. I want to thank all of you again for coming in for conferences. I was very glad to be able to spend time with each of you. Although December is going to be a little short, it will still be fully packed with learning and laughing.

In Science, we will be working on an insect observation activity for the entire month. The students will be able to witness metamorphosis in action.

Our Math groups are still going great. We are going to be making some changes to our math groups in order to better serve the students' abilities. We are creating different math tutor groups to help boost students' computation skills as well. Remember to keep practicing math facts at home. This is a great help for your child's success.

The Reading groups are as great as ever. Both the Reading Mastery IV and V groups are nearing the end of their books and will most likely be starting in the next leveled book. We are all excited for the transition to happen. Ms. Healy-Tuke is working with the Comp. C/"Where the Red Fern Grows" group and has let me know that the students in this group are doing great. I am frequently impressed with the different things that they are working on especially since they are reading one of my all time favorite stories.

It is important that all of the students are spending time each day at home reading to themselves or to someone else. Reading silently or out loud is one of the best things a student can do to build their knowledge base. Thank you again for all of your cares and concerns and as may reach me at the school or t
Holidays!



Mr. Benassi

