Welcome to Room 16

It is my privilege to be sharing your child’s fourth grade year with you. This is a year of increased responsibilities, raised expectations and great growth. I look forward to providing a safe, encouraging learning environment for your child. The following information is just a peek at what we will be doing this school year.

**Reading:**

Reading will be in the form of a Reader’s Workshop. During the first 10-15 minutes, we will gather on the carpet for our mini-lesson. Each lesson will focus on a specific reading strategy. While a variety of teaching materials will be used throughout the school year, many of the lessons will come from a program called Making Meaning. This program is used at all grade levels allowing us to build on the knowledge the children gain each year. Using read aloud books; this program helps us to teach children reading comprehension strategies as well as developing their social values to create a supportive community of readers. The children will then be given 30-40 minutes to read “just right” books independently while practicing skills from the lesson. During this time children may also be meeting with me in small strategy reading groups, writing in reading response notebooks and conferring with the teacher. The final minutes of the workshop will bring the students back together to share examples of their learning with one another.

**Writing:**

We will continue with the workshop format in the area of writing. This daily writing time will consist of a mini-lesson, independent writing time, conferring with peers and teacher and sharing. Students will learn to write literary essays and informational text this year.

**Math:**

This year we will be using a new math curriculum titled **Math** **Expressions**.

**Math Expressi**ons is:

**Focused** – Fewer standards in each grade level with higher expectations in terms of depth of knowledge. Students have time to master mathematical concepts.

**Coherent** – Learning follows a carefully planned sequence that allows students to build their understanding while making connections between mathematical concepts.

**Rigorous** – Math Expressions puts all children on the pathway to college and career readiness. Students develop procedural fluency (“how to do it”), conceptual understanding (“why it works”) and strategic competence (“when to do it”).

**Science:**

There are four major units of study, one per marking period, in our fourth grade year. We will begin the year with Earth Materials, followed by Electricity and Magnetism, Environments and finally, Mixtures and Solutions. Hands-on activities comprise a large part of our science curriculum.

**Social Studies:**

The study of Michigan is the focus of our fourth grade social studies curriculum. We will us our Michigan text book as well as a variety of other materials to learn about the state in which we live. Special units featuring the lumber industry and lighthouses will also be included.

**Word Study/Vocabulary Development:**

We will be assessing word study skills during the first few weeks of school. Following that I will determine the best learning plan for your child. This may include word study, to allow time and practice with spelling patterns, Word Wisdom, a vocabulary development program for those who have spelling patterns firmly in place, or a combination thereof.

**Assignment Books:**

Each child has been given an assignment book. We will fill this out together daily. I record on the ELMO what is to be written down. It is your child’s responsibility to copy it in his/her assignment book. This is an important tool to help keep the children organized and let parents know about daily assignments. PLEASE monitor this book closely. Look at it each day! It is your child’s responsibility to have this book in class each day and to take it home each night. Packing the backpack at night is a good habit to get into. Assignment books and homework are often left behind in the early morning scramble.

**Friday Folders:**

Work will be sent home each Friday in our red Friday Folders. Please set aside some time over the weekend to look over your child’s work from the week. Please return the empty folder with your child on Monday.

**Grading Scale:**

100-95 A 82-80 B- 69-66 D+

94-90 A- 79-76 C+ 65-63 D

89-86 B+ 75-73 C 62-60 D-

85-83 B 72-70 C- 59-0 E

**Birthdays**:

Please see attached

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