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**ROOM 206 NEWS**

**October 7, 2019**

Dear Parents,

Thanks to all of you who were able to come to Curriculum Night earlier in Sept. I hope was able to address all of your concerns and questions. For those of who were unable to make it, I sent home a copy of our 4th grade Curriculum sheet. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at school.

Thanks also for signing up for Parent/Teacher Conferences on Oct. 21, 22, & 23. If you haven’t signed up yet, let me know and I’ll send you the link to the sign up site.

Here’s what has been and will be happening in our classroom.

**Math:** Last week, we began Unit 2 which focuses on multiplication, polygons, and symmetry. As a part of Unit 2, students will begin memorizing multiplication facts through nine. Four times over the school year, students will be given a timed, 50 multiplication facts test. If they score less than 100% on each test, they will be assigned a list of facts that were incorrect on their test. These will be written in their assignment books to practice during the week, and on Thursday and Friday, they will be tested orally on those facts only. If necessary, they will receive another list to practice for subsequent weeks. These fact tests will continue until they demonstrate mastery of multiplication facts 1 through 9. Once they earn 100% on a 50 fact test, they will “graduate” to a division facts test.

Don’t forget to encourage your students to complete math challenge sheets. There are opportunities to do these in class, but students may certainly bring them home to work on with your help if necessary.

**Reading:** We are just finishing up our Character Fiction Books. Students have been writing “Stop and Jots” on post it notes to show their thinking about their books. Today, they wrote an extended responses in their Reading Journals about a favorite character’s personality traits, and on Thursday, they will write about the important message or theme of their book. Ask your student what Character Books they have been reading.

**Vocabulary and Word Study:** Great news!Vocabulary test scores have improved dramatically. I think this mainly due to more careful preparation and study by students during the week. Be sure to praise your kids for their improved scores and encourage them to study a little each night.

Most of our Word Study work (as opposed to Vocabulary) happens in the classroom and students often do this work on a website called Quizlet. Every other week, I load a new word set on the site which students can then access to complete word meaning activities, play games, and take quizzes.

They can get to this site at home by going to my Weebly site, clicking the “Web Sites” tab, then clicking “Google Classroom”. Then click the Quizlet links to find the lists we have studied so far. Students should know how to do all of this.

**Social Studies/Science:** Our map study unit culminated in students making their own world maps. You can see their finished work on the board outside our classroom. Last week, we began our study of the Northeast region, which we will finish tomorrow so that we can start our first science unit on geological formations (specifically, the Grand Canyon).

**Writing Workshop**: Your students are hard at work completing their realistic fiction stories. When we finish next week, they will begin writing persuasive and personal essays.

**LGBTQ+ Week**: We will be devoting about 40 minutes each day to learning about different gender identities and the importance of an accepting and welcoming attitude towards people who do not conform to “typical” identities. Ask your student about Ho’onani, a young Hawaiian person that we learned about today. Ho’onani does not consider herself to be either a “wahine” (girl) or a “kane” (boy), but someone “in the middle” – a “mahu”. Mahus have been a revered part of Hawaiian culture since ancient times.

Please read Jerry Michel’s email from last week for details about LGBTQ+ week.

**Special Announcements**:

* Forgot to mention Hispanic Heritage Month! As your child about the Spanish speaking country they researched last week.
* If you have not turned in the Field Trip form for our Emily Oaks trip on 10/28, please do so by this Friday.
* Don’t forget – Yom Kippur begins Tuesday evening, so there is no school on Wed.

Thank You – John Minor