

# The C<sup>3</sup> Monthly:

## Carvalho's Classroom Communicator



Mrs. Carvalho's 4<sup>th</sup> Grade • November 2013

### November News:

There's a lot going on these days both in our classroom and at Martin.

Swimming Starts! We will be starting swim lessons this Friday (11/15) during regular gym class times so please remember to send your child with a tote/bag with a swim suit, towel, and a plastic bag to store their wet suit and towel after they change.

At-Home Helpers-Please encourage your child to use sites such as LearnZillion, Galileo, and Study Island. These are all links on my website and offer a great review of common core standards and all we are working on in class. Learn Zillion is something the students are familiar with using, so have them show you how it works. They choose a topic they are having trouble with or need to review (in Math or ELA) and a short video lesson reviews the concept with them. It a great way to reinforce the many concepts taught in 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Supply Alert:** We still need headphones! I did go and purchase 10 pairs at the dollar store, but they don't work that well. If students can bring in their own pair of headphones to use on the computers and ipads, it would be very helpful.

Weekly Folders- Please try to review the work that comes home each week with grades and comments. I spend a lot of time trying to write comments that will help them learn from their mistakes and also point out what they are doing well. If you could ensure that they are seeing this and thinking about their work, I really believe it will help them improve.

Multiplication Logs-So far, I am seeing an improvement in the children learning their facts, so I think the paper reminder to practice their facts nightly is working! Please keep this up because we need to have them master their math facts ASAP! Nothing will help them feel better about their math skills than learning these facts.

As always, contact me with any questions or concerns!

-Mrs. Carvalho

[carvalhoc@seekonk.k12.ma.us](mailto:carvalhoc@seekonk.k12.ma.us)

Be sure to frequently visit my website:

<http://carvalho4th.weebly.com>

## What Are We Learning About?

ELA-In the area of English/Language Arts, we are reading the novel, *In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson*.

This is a funny, beautifully written novel about a young girl who moves to the US from China in 1947. Themes of multiculturalism, racism, immigration, and friendship are all part of this book. We will build our comprehension skills and work on our Open Response writing skills as well.

Writing- Students are still working on stories in the realistic fiction genre. They will be "publishing" a story and working on enhancing what they wrote. At the same time, students are also practicing Mrs. C's "R.E.A.D" acronym to help with writing high quality open responses to literature and content area questions. Ask them about it and check out my PowTOON on my website. They should be using this in their Response Journals, which they bring home for HW at least once per week.

Math-Students have started Unit 3 which is all about multiplication and division of larger numbers. Students are learning how to write equations using variables, breaking apart larger numbers to multiply them in a way they can understand and to model a problem. As much as you may want to show them the "real" way of solving a long division problem or a multiplication problem, PLEASE hold off. This only confuses them as the focus of 4<sup>th</sup> grade is to teach them the THINKING behind the math operations. We need to have them understand what is happening so that later, when they learn the "real way", it makes sense and they become stronger math students. Have the Student Math Handbook handy to help see the way we teach them

some of these strategies. Also, Learn Zillion is a GREAT place to see the way 4<sup>th</sup> graders "do math" and how to "draw a division problem", etc. Again, if you show them "your way", they will only get confused. I have seen it over and over again. When they are asked to explain their work and how they solved it, the "real way" doesn't help them. It may take a bit longer, but in the end, we are hoping their thinking will be more solid and deeper. Please continue practicing math facts daily though—and yes, this can be the old fashioned way-flash cards or writing the tables over and over...whatever works!

Science-We finished our unit on Work/Energy and Simple Machines. We will be focusing on SS for a few weeks.

Social Studies- We are starting our unit on Immigration and learning what cultures make up our country and why they came to the US. We also will learn what contributions each culture made to our country.

REMEMBER –HOMEWORK IS POSTED DAILY ON MY WEBSITE. THIS LINK IS ALSO ACCESSIBLE VIA MARTIN WEBSITE (see new HW link!)

A BIG thank you to the PTO for the awesome floor protectors for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade chairs. Covering all 28 chairs, these protectors make it quieter in our rooms and also keep the floors looking better. Thank You!



Used Games? Legos? If anyone has any extra or old (but in good shape!) board games or Legos they are looking to get rid of, we could use some to have on hand for the many indoor recess days that are sure to come in the next few months. The best ones for indoor recess are shorter games like Connect Four, Operation, Perfection, etc. Thanks in advance for any donations!