

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

## Carvalho's Classroom Communicator



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

### **We are Moving Along!**

I can't believe it is fall already! The children are really getting used to their new classroom routines and more importantly, getting used to the increased expectations for fourth grade work, both in class and at home.

We spend a great deal of time going over work, talking about what is expected and what they need to do to improve their work. Again, all the while I am reminding them that this all takes EFFORT and that "Smart is not something you are, it is something you become."

Please help me to encourage that high level of effort. Together, we can truly make a big difference in the success of your child this year!

As always, contact me with any questions or concerns!  
-Mrs. Carvalho

### **Parent Conferences are Coming!!**

I will be sending home a parent conference time to all parents in the next few days. Please sign and return to confirm your appointment time. I am also sending home a conference planner so that we can best use the very small amount of time I am able to give each parent during these two days. If you need more time to speak with me, we can always arrange additional meeting time.

### **GALILEO???**

You will hear students talk about "Galileo". This is an assessment tool that allows teachers to collect individualized data about each student's strengths and weaknesses so that we can better plan lessons and target interventions for students in need of help with the curriculum. Students will log in to Galileo and find individualized assignments based on their needs throughout the year. You can access Galileo directly through my website (click on link on my site).

## What Are We Learning About?

ELA-In the area of English/Language Arts, Mrs. Carvalho's students continue to work stories in the anthology. Through these stories, we are learning about genres, setting, comparing and contrasting characters, and theme. We are also still establishing our weekly routines for vocabulary and spelling instruction and word study. Students recently took a "high frequency word" spelling test and will be working to improve their spelling of these most commonly used words.

Writing- We have excitedly begun the new Lucy Calkins' *Units of Study* writing program. Students are learning to generate ideas for stories in the realistic fiction genre. At the same time, students are also learning 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.

Math-Students will be starting Unit 2 which is all about representing data. Topics such as interpreting a line plot, discussing the range, any outliers, and typical data are part of this unit. Keep in mind, most students STILL need to put A LOT more effort into their math facts, so please support me in expecting them to practice DAILY. This is truly the only way to see improvement.

Science-We are learning about work and energy and using this as a foundation to learn about simple machines.

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

A BIG thank you to ALL of the very generous families who donated books to our classroom library in the recent Scholastic Book Fair! The students and I are so grateful!



Any questions? Concerns? My email is [carvalhoc@seekonk.k12.ma.us](mailto:carvalhoc@seekonk.k12.ma.us)

Be sure to frequently visit my website:

<http://carvalho4th.weebly.com>

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**Supply Alert:** We need headphones! If students can bring in their own pair of headphones to use on the computers and ipads, it would be very helpful. We don't have enough and for hygiene reasons, it would be great if each student had their own pair. We watch a lot of learning videos and tutorials, and headphones are crucial in avoiding a big noisy classroom during laptop time.

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## Parents!!

Please remember to send back the WEEKLY FOLDER with your signature on the signature sheet. This tells me you saw all of your child's graded work. Please also sign any 1s or 2s and return with the folder as well.