

Miss Switzer's Star Notes



October Newsletter

Dear Parents,

It's so very hard to believe that we have been in school about a month and a half already! Time goes by so quickly! I wanted to thank those of you who helped with our Globe Making Day! The globes turned out great this year thanks to all of our great volunteers! It was also so great to see so many of you at our Open House! The kids did a great job showing you all around the classroom and our school. I hope you all had a good time.

This group of 18 very special students gets along very well together, and I love greeting them with a hug or a high 5 every morning! Our routines are becoming habits now, and we are well into our curriculum. I enjoy getting to know these children more and more each day and watching them learn and grow as 4th graders.

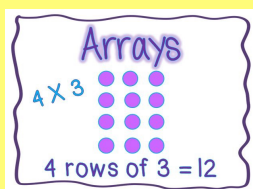
Please read through this newsletter to see what we have been up to this past month. Thanks for your time. Beth :-)

STAR and BAS Tests

We finished our first round of STAR testing, and we are almost done with our fall BAS (reading) testing.

We've completed most of our ELA pre-assessments for the year, too.

Math



We just finished our first math unit last week, and this week we have started Unit 2. This unit focuses on multiplication and geometry. Our first lessons have been about square numbers and arrays, using the formula for area, and factors and factor pairs.

You should have received the second FAMILY LETTER on Monday in your child's HOMEWORK folder. These FAMILY LETTERS are very helpful with questions you or your child might have. Be sure to save these as they are useful throughout the unit.

Your child has a BLUE password page in his/her binder that contains all of his/her passwords to online programs that we use in math and spelling. The Everyday Math website is great if your child forgets his/her Study Link, to play games related to the unit we are studying, to access the Student Reference Book, and to help with any student or parent questions.

I mentioned Reflex in our last newsletter. All students should spend some time during the week or on the weekend working on their math facts. Automaticity is the goal. It really does help with everything else we learn in math!

Social Studies/Science



Last week we took our geography assessment on continents and oceans. The class did a great job on this unit, and I think they had fun with our Jeopardy game and fun videos as we learned more and more about our world!

We will begin our first science unit next Friday. We will begin by talking about science tools and processes.

Some Things We Need From Parents

*Please read and sign plan books daily so your children see the importance of checking it each night.

*When changing dismissal plans, please be sure to include full name and addresses for bus passes..this saves lots of class time.

*Encourage your child to do his/her best every day.



*SPOONS...We could use some extra spoons for kids forget theirs for snack time.

Language Arts

Our first unit, The Arc of the Story, will culminate in the writing of a realistic fiction story. The students have all chosen a story idea, are working on character traits, and are jumping in and choosing problems that their characters will navigate through their individual stories.

In reading, our first unit is Interpreting Characters. We are reading Tiger Rising as we learn about the best ways to choose books, how to read intensely, developing comprehension skills as we focus on the characters in our books.

We will begin our Sitton Spelling program this week. Spellingcity.com is a great online resource where your children can practice spelling words that they should know.

As I've been giving BAS reading tests to the kids, I've noticed a lot of "summer slide." When I chat with the kids about this, it's pretty usual to find out that those who have lost some of their gains from last year didn't read a lot this past summer. We need to get those gains back by reading, reading, reading!

Reading logs are being completed regularly, but we are still having some issues with students not meeting their goals and/or not completing the reading response on the back of the log. We write reminders daily in the plan books so the students need to be taking responsibility for this weekly assignment.

The MORE that you
READ, the more things
you will **KNOW.**
The MORE that you
Learn, the more places
you'll **GO.**

Dr. Seuss

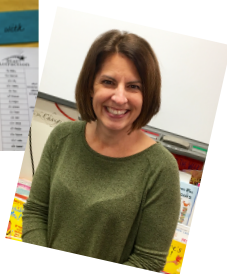
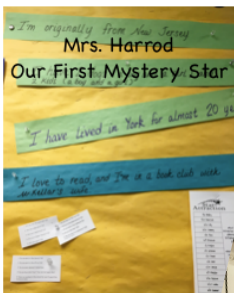


Star Attraction Weeks

Hadley was our very first student to be celebrated as the Star of the Week! She did a terrific job sharing about herself. Our second Star of the Week was Emmy! It was so fun to see what the girls both brought in to share about themselves. It was neat to see their bulletin board or shelves fill up with their special items! Thanks to the Larson and Clark families for writing great letters about your girls, too.



We would like to thank Mrs. Harrod for being our very first Mystery Star of the Week. She gave us clues all week, and then she came in to reveal herself and take questions from the class. We are currently trying to guess the identity of our second Mystery Star of the Week. So far we just know that this person likes number and word puzzles, and his favorite candy bar is Oh Henry. It's so exciting to see the kids trying to solve these mystery identities by asking smart questions and thinking through the clues.



Kids' Cabinet and Civil Rights Representatives

We recently had an election to choose our Kids' Cabinet representative. Connor was chosen to be our class rep. Congratulations to him, and to the other brave students who gave speeches in front of their peers. I know that I couldn't have done that when I was in 4th grade. Good job Kaylee, Lilly, Theo, and Hudson.

Maddie is our Civil Rights' rep. Students who had been in Civil Rights before are automatically in the next year, too.

I know that Maddie and Connor will both represent our class well.

Communication Options

I just wanted to remind you all of the communication options we have in our classroom.

Most whole class communication comes from the Bloomz app. If you aren't a member yet, please holler, and I'll give you the info to sign up. I also use our CRES email, bswitzer@yorkschoos.org along with newsletters and written notes.

I truly do welcome communication of every type. Please don't hesitate to ask me questions or share comments you might have. Together Everyone Achieves More!

We're All Different

We had an amazing presentation from the Cromwell Center. This program shares that disabilities come in all shapes and sizes—some more obvious than others. The kids were led through several activities that gave them experiences to “feel” what it must be like to learn differently. They also looked at pictures of famous people and tried to guess which, if any, had a disability. What they are learning is that you can't always tell our differences from just looking. There are many invisible disabilities, too.



It's always important to know that we all need different things in a classroom. Some might need more communication about what they are learning. Others might need preferential seating. Some might need things scribed for them. Fair isn't always equal. I find that 4th graders seem to have a very good grasp of this concept!

We often watch videos from Special Books by Special Kids. These are videos of people, often children, who have some sort of disability. The purpose of these videos is to show that no matter what you look like, how you learn, etc....most people just want to be liked, to have a friend. These videos also expose the kids to the diversity of people in our world.

We are also reading Wonder in class. If you haven't read this or seen the movie, it's a wonderful story about a young boy with some facial deformities. As with Special Books by Special Kids, Auggie just wants to fit in and be liked. Isn't that what we all want?



Our first WHOLE class picture 10/8/19

Conversation Starters for Home

Ask your child to tell you about....

- Jeopardy
- inside recess
- funny continent video
- BAS tests
- Special Books by Special Kids' videos
- Tiger Rising
- Wonder
- changing seats

Please RETURN this clipper at your earliest convenience OR email that you have read this newsletter. Thanks so much.

parent signature_____

