

September 13, 2013

4th grade parents,

I can't believe it's been 4 weeks already! On the one hand, it feels like we've just gotten started, but on the other hand your children have settled nicely into our daily routine and we are getting lots of serious work done - and having fun doing it. And believe it or not, we're ALMOST done the geoboards!

Here's just a little example ... ask your child how they earned 10 extra minutes of recess today, and what the term "FRIGGATRISKAIDEKAPHOBIA" means - it's not part of the curriculum, but it demonstrates what a group of critical thinkers these 4th graders are becoming.

Some other conversation-starters from the past week: "Why don't Kiwi's (people from New Zealand) like possums?", "Tell me about the predator/prey game you played the other day with owls and mice and golf balls", and "Why did it look like Mr. Mac was wearing fluorescent pink nail polish today?"

The students have now all chosen their countries* for their independent research project (ask them why there is an asterisk after the word "countries"). The details for the project may be found on my mrmcilquhamcountries.weebly.com website, also accessible from the "Geography" page of my classroom website. Please click through all the pages of the website to get a feel for the breadth and depth of the project, and remember to click on the "top" pages of each pulldown menu as well to get all the available information and instructions.

The first due date for the project is 9/30, at which point the completed Outline is to be turned in for grading and comments.

I have posted the parent-teacher conference times on the calendar in Jupiter - please let me know if you don't see your name there and would like to have a conference with me next week.

I will be working this weekend, so you'll probably receive another email or two as other things occur to me. Right now I'm heading home for dinner and a movie with my daughter - please enjoy yourselves this weekend, and thanks again for helping to make Ashley Academy possible!

Mr. Mac