

October 5, 2013

4th grade parents,

Another eventful week in 4th grade - metamorphoses, pyramid and log cabin building, Vikings and Marco Polo, logic and critical thinking with Sudoku, Mastermind, checkers, Rush Hour, and 20 Questions, and to top it all off the kids finally got to play on the grass on the playground! Other conversation starters for your child from the week:

- "What were Viking berserkers?"
- "Why has everyone heard of Marco Polo when his father and uncle made the trip before he did?"
- "What happens if you touch skin to metal at 40 degrees below zero?"

The class is very excited about our field trip this coming Tuesday to see "Little House on the Prairie" and to Bays Mountain to learn about animal adaptations. Let's all hope the weather cooperates!

I have now finished reworking the Jupiter gradebook weightings to reflect the new due dates for the Country Project and the lack of term tests. After hearing from a few parents, in place of the term tests I have included a "Participation" grade to reflect the students' attention and effort in class. At this point, every one of your children gets 100% in this regard - you have a great group of kids and they are a joy to teach. I can honestly say that I have not had a single discipline problem this year - thank you and let's all hope the trend continues!

While the term tests have been taken off the schedule, the week of Oct 14-18 will still feature three unit tests - it just so happens that we will be completing Social Studies, Science and Math units at about the same time. These are not large units, nor are they "high stakes" tests, so I hope this does not cause undue hardship regarding studying. In Language Arts each day we are working on turning Country Outline data into report paragraphs - hopefully this effort, along with the extended deadlines in the project, will also reduce homework stress.

I hope everyone is enjoying a beautiful weekend - I believe my family is visiting Fender's Farm tomorrow for our annual Halloween pumpkin purchase!

Mr. Mac