

November 22, 2013

Parents -

Another highly educational and pleasurable week in 4th grade (at least for me!). It's hard work for all of us, but we do have fun and laugh a lot as we learn. This week the students finished a MAJOR project, started a new book ("The Landry News"), visited a planetarium, AND had tests in Spelling, Math, Science and Social Studies - the coming Thanksgiving Break is certainly well-timed and well-deserved!

I leave the class on Monday and Tuesday in the capable hands of Mrs. McQueen and Mrs. Baker. I will not be updating the website in my absence, so please check your child's paper homework planner for work that is due (there really is very little given the Thanksgiving break). I encourage you to encourage your children to read avidly over the break - they have started trying to figure out which Newbery book they would like to read for their next major project (I love listening to them independently start a discussion about literature!) Given that every child must read a different book, the lobbying has already begun! The Newbery Medal and Honor book list is huge, so rest assured there are plenty of appropriate books for all. Check them out at <http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/newberymedal/newberyhonors/newberymedal>

Conversations starters from the week: ask your child about ...

- the autobiographical story they have been working on in Language Arts - they each have well-developed and inventive tales to tell, from travel stories to pet stories to squinkie mysteries and more!
- 3D sidewalk chalk drawings
- the "Tuning" spoken performance piece and accompanying pictures that we are practicing in class

Please come along on Monday or Tuesday afternoon and enjoy the Country\* Project Presentations - it should be a great show, and the more practice the students get presenting in front of a large and supportive audience, the better!

Have a safe, relaxing and family-filled Thanksgiving break,

Mr. Mac