



Mr. Huyck's Fourth-Grade
M. L. King Elementary School



Friday, October 4, 2024

Volume XXXII, Issue #5, Day 28

Website (<http://www.a2schools.org/Domain/1628>)

Dear families,

We continue to keep busy and productive in room 103. In math, we are approaching the end of Unit 1. In writing, we have become strong in our Independent Writing routine and began exploring our writing goals. In reading, we are strong in our Lexia and Independent Reading routines, making progress on our fall reading assessments, enjoying our read-aloud, and learning about books through our Book Talk/Share routine. In social studies, we have completed our study of government. In science, we have started our unit called: *Built For Survival*. In SEL (social-emotional learning) we continue building our community through Star Student and various activities. I hope you will enjoy learning more about your child's classroom & school activities.

Information, Reminders, and Upcoming Activities

Star Student: Our Star Students this week are: Yahya 10/7, Evan 10/8, Leighton 10/9, & Audrey 10/10. We began Round Two last week. During Round Two, students should bring in around five representative items to share with their classmates. This will help us continue to get to know each other better. This is similar to the bag/box sharing that we did on the first few days of school.



As part of the five items to share, students can also send pictures or short video clips via email to Mr. Huyck. This would help us see things that cannot be seen at school. In the past, students have shown short clips of them playing musical instruments, skiing, playing sports, & more. Students have also sent pictures of their pets, themselves fishing, tubing, & more.

Homework: Please continue to help your child complete the weekly expectations (DreamBox, Lexia, read at home, & facts practice). This past Friday, a relaxed list of misc. conversation items was included in your child's Friday Folder. When my children were young I loved learning about a variety of items that they did at school, especially when I couldn't be there to see them. I hope that you enjoy learning about many of our routines and items we worked on during the first several weeks of school.



Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences: Our parent-teacher meetings begin this Thursday, 10/10. I look forward to meeting with you.

Here is the link to our sign-up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4FABA62BA3F85-51425757-mrhuyck#/>

Bingo Draw: We have a positive reward system in our class. It's called *Bingo Draw*. Ask your child about it. When students make special positive choices they earn bingo draws and fill in a bingo chart. Once a bingo has been earned the students can enjoy a special activity. Here are some ideas from previous years: movie & snacks, fort building, extra recess, free-time, lunch in the classroom, picnic in the courtyard/outside, and more. Students typically earn a bingo every six weeks or so.

This past week we earned our first bingo. After much discussion, the students voted to build forts in our classroom this Thursday, 10/10. On Thursday, please allow your child to bring in fort building materials, such as CLEAN sheets, blankets, towels, etc. Also, send in flashlight/lanterns. Students are also welcome to dress in their pajamas and enjoy our own personal Pajama Day, and bring in their "stuffies."

Walk, Bike, & Roll: This is BEFORE-SCHOOL this Wednesday, 10/9.



New Jobs: We will choose new jobs this Thursday, 10/10.

Fall Break: Our Fall Break begins this Friday, 10/11. School resumes on Tuesday, 10/15 (Picture Day).

Picture Day: Picture Day will be on Tuesday, 10/15.

DTE Energy Program: We will have a special presentation about energy on Tuesday, 10/15. The students will learn about a variety of items connected to energy, specifically how to reduce our energy use. Students will receive a kit of items that can be used to save energy. If you decide that you will not use the items in the kit, then please either pass them on to another friend or family member, or return to Mr. Huyck and he will find a home for them.

Bagel Friday: Come out and enjoy our second *Bagel Friday* event on 10/18.

Seat Locations: We will move our seat locations on Friday, 10/18.

Buddies: Our next *Buddies!* time will be Friday, 10/18.

Science/Social Studies/Health Rotation: We will have our first science/social studies/health rotation on Monday, 10/21. Our class will visit Ms. Karkau first. We will rotate every three weeks or so and plan to wrap up on Friday, 3/21.

Harvest Moon Festival: The Harvest Moon Festival is on Wednesday, 10/23. This is a favorite activity for many students.

October Early-Release Day: Our next Early-Release Day is on Thursday, 10/31. Students will eat lunch at school. The dismissal process begins at 12:52.

No school on 11/5: Please recall that there will no school on Tuesday, 11/5, for Election Day.

Recent and upcoming activities connected to our subject areas:

*Writing/Word Study: We have been enjoying writing about topics & genres of our choice during our daily Independent Writing routine. Many students have been exploring fictional stories. Others have been enjoying writing about their personal experiences, or simply what's on their minds. We also finished our buddy pen pals letter and eagerly await their return letters. We began discussing what writers do as they compose their writing pieces, which will then lead to our writing goals for the year. This year we will also be pen pals with University of Michigan students. We look forward to writing back and forth with them. We will work on our first letters this week. Writing pen pal letters is an excellent activity for helping the students improve their writing. Keeping an audience in mind greatly improves the effort and quality of our writing. We will also soon begin our Word Study routine and move on to our first unit of study: *Realistic Fiction Stories*.



*Reading: We recently began our fall reading assessments. During a reading assessment, the student reads aloud to the teacher. The teacher takes notes and makes observations (listening for accuracy, fluency, and more). Then, the student and teacher engage in a conversation (so that the teacher can gauge comprehension of the text). We have also been focusing on various genres and how to choose "just right" texts. In addition, we have been enjoying another fun part of our reading time: Book Talk/Share. During Book Talk/Share students tell their classmates about books that they enjoy. This helps us learn about new books and get more interested in a variety of books. We've also been enjoying our read-aloud: [The Kid Who Ran for President](#). Over the next weeks we will continue working on reading assessments, discuss skills that readers need & establish reading goals, enjoy Book Talks/Share, enjoy our read-alouds, Independent Reading, and learn from Lexia.



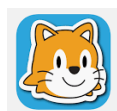
*Math: We are nearing the end of Unit 1. This past week students worked on solving large addition & subtraction problems using a variety of strategies/methods. We decided that the Traditional strategies/methods are the most efficient (these are the methods that most people use in their daily lives). Over the next week or two we will wrap-up Unit 1, practice facts, learn a valuable routine called Partner Check, practice measuring (with inches, feet, yards), discuss geometry items (points, rays, lines, and line segments), and continue DreamBox.



*Social Studies: We completed our study of government with an end assessment. Overall, the students performed very well on the assessment. Ask your child about it. Through the unit we talked about the various government structures, purpose/responsibility of government & citizens, why government is important and helpful, what our lives might be like without government, the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the three branches of government (Executive, Judicial, and Legislative), the three levels of government (Federal, State, and Local), how a bill becomes a law, and *Checks and Balances*.



*Science: In PLTW, Mr. Tomsik continues to work on computer science (coding) with the students. We also reviewed science & scientists, and then began our science unit, *Built for Survival*. During our study, the students will think about and explore how plants and animals use their structures to survive. This past week we began discussing the structures (and their functions) of animals. Students are creating an Animal Structures & Functions Diagram/Model. Ask your child to show it to you.



*SEL (Social-Emotional Learning): Our Star Student sharing time is an important part of our day. We've also been building community and creating a sense of belonging. We will soon begin our SEL Trails curriculum. In addition, SEL weaves its way through everything we do. There are "teaching moments" that arise through each and every day.



Misc. Important Items

Our Class Schedule:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/12jbc4RP8cxII9Xwwmc_gA1BJJluG-RsK/edit?gid=143570637#gid=143570637

Mrs. Berger's Website (our music teacher):

musicwithmrscheeseberger.weebly.com.

King Dream Keeper Newsletter (from our principals):

<https://www.smores.com/xsp3g>

Attendance/Absences: If your child needs to be absent, or is being picked up early, please use one or more of the links below. **When picking up your child early, always ring the bell for the office first. Office staff will let you know the next steps.**

Email the teacher and t

- he office at kingattendance@aaps.k12.mi.us
- Call the school at 734.994.1940

Our Class Website: Please visit our classroom website occasionally. You can find documents that have been previously sent home, newsletters/updates, a calendar of upcoming items, and more:

<https://www.a2schools.org/Domain/1628>

Have a great week!

-Mr. Huyck