



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



Friday, September 20, 2024

Volume XXXII, Issue #3, Day 18

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

Dear families,

We've enjoyed our first four weeks of school. We have now firmed up our schedule and our days are more structured. We've been productive and busy in class. In math, we have started Unit 1 and worked on our DreamBox activity. In writing, we have learned and practiced our Independent Writing routine. In reading, we have grown stronger in Lexia and Independent Reading. In social studies, we have made good progress in our study of government. In SEL (social-emotional learning) we have enjoyed building our community through various activities. Please enjoy learning more about your child's classroom & school activities.

Information, Reminders, and Upcoming Activities

Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences: Our fall Parent-Teacher meetings will take place between 10/10 and 10/22. I look forward to engaging in conversation with you.

Please sign-up for a Fall Parent-Teacher Conference via the link below. In the "My Comment" box, please remember to add your child's name.

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

Star Student: Our Star Students this week are: Lyrik 9/23, Sunshin 9/24, Rowan 9/25, Zainab 9/26, & Kai 9/27 (happy birthday!). Students have been sharing their *All About Me* page. It's been wonderful getting to know each other better.



Buddies: This past Friday we enjoyed working with our first-grade buddies from Ms. Hong's class. For our first meeting, we shared our *All About Me* pages and read together. We meet every three weeks or so.

Severe-Weather Drill: We have our first Severe-Weather Drill this Monday, 9/23, at 2:15. We will practice how to move to a safer location in the event of a tornado warning.

Early-Release Day: Our first Early-Release day is this Tuesday, 9/24. Students will eat lunch at school. The dismissal process begins at 12:52.

Field Trip: We are going on a field trip to Gallup Park this Thursday, 9/26, to view the *Embracing Our Differences* exhibit. We will leave school about 9:45, be on-site from about 10:00-11:00, and return to school about 11:15.

Bagel Friday: Come out and enjoy our first *Bagel Friday* event of the year on 9/27.

**New Jobs:** We will choose new jobs again on Friday, 9/27.

**Safety (Lockdown, Security) Drill:** Our first Safety, or Lockdown/Security, Drill will be Monday, 9/30, at 2:45. In this drill, students practice what to do in a building emergency that is NOT connected to a fire or severe-weather. Students sit silently, awaiting directions from their adult leader.

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

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

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

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

*Recent and upcoming activities connected to our subject areas:*

**\*Writing/Word Study:** This past week we continued our Independent Writing routine and discussed its importance. During Independent Writing students choose their own writing topics. It gives students opportunities to write in areas that may be outside of the fourth-grade writing units. To help with writing topics, students brainstormed many ideas. Over next couple of weeks we will continue to improve our independent writing routine, set goals/targets, think about what writers do & establish writing goals, write pen pal letters to our buddies, and focus on basic skills & mechanics. Once our foundation is set we will move on to our first unit of study: *Realistic Fiction Stories*.



**\*Reading:** Throughout last week we moved forward in our Independent Reading (I.R.) routine. In I.R., it's very important that students choose "just right" texts, so we spent time reviewing how to do that. A "just right" text is typically a text that we enjoy, understand, can read mostly fluently, and keeps our attention. It is a text that is a productive use of our time and works well for us. We reviewed the concept of genres, and discussed fiction and nonfiction genres. We also spent time learning from the use of Lexia via the computer. We have two goals each week in Lexia: minutes and units goals. Each child has a different amount of minutes/units to reach each week. Ask your child about their Lexia goals. Over the next weeks we will finish reviewing genres, discuss skills that readers need & establish reading goals, enjoy Book Talks, and work on our fall reading assessments.



**\*Math:** We are now well into Unit 1, which is titled: *Place Value-Multidigit Addition and Subtraction*. So far, Unit 1 has been a review/practice of place value, working with BIG numbers, and rounding/estimating skills with BIG numbers. Our DreamBox routine via the computer has greatly improved. Our two goals in DreamBox are to reach 60 minutes and 5 lessons by the end of the week. Coming up, students will continue to work on multiplication/division facts (as needed), move forward in Unit 1, and learn from DreamBox.





\*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.

\*Social Studies: We have been studying government over the past two weeks. Here are some of the topics we've covered so far: types of government, purpose/responsibility of government & citizens, why government is important and helpful, the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the three branches of government (Executive, Judicial, and Legislative). Next we will think about the three levels of government (Federal, State, and Local), how a bill becomes a law, and "checks and balances."



\*Science-Project Lead The Way (PLTW): Mr. Tomsik is working on computer science with the students. They are learning to code using the app Scratch.

### *Misc. Important Items*

#### *Our Class Schedule:*

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/12jbc4RP8cxII9Xwwmc\\_gA1BJJluG-RsK/edit?gid=143570637#gid=143570637](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/12jbc4RP8cxII9Xwwmc_gA1BJJluG-RsK/edit?gid=143570637#gid=143570637)

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

[musicwithmrscheeseberger.weebly.com](http://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 the office at [kingattendance@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto: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**