



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



Friday, September 27, 2024

Volume XXXII, Issue #4, Day 23

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

Dear families,

I hope all is well with you and your family. Our first several weeks of school are filled with a wide-variety of "beginning-of-year" or "start-up" items. Like anything that's been built, placing an emphasis upon creating a strong foundation is critical. We have accomplished a great deal in the past weeks, and now our class is organized and structured.

In math, we are progressing through Unit 1. In writing, we are getting stronger at our Independent Writing routine. In reading, we have grown stronger in Lexia and Independent Reading; we are also working on our fall reading assessments. In social studies, we are wrapping up 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

Star Student: Our Star Students this week are: Owen 9/30, Mr. Huyck 10/1, Ava 10/2, Claire 10/3, and Rajveer 10/4. We will complete Round One on Tuesday with Mr. Huyck. Round Two begins on Wednesday, 10/2, with Ava. For Round Two, students will 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.



Homework: Please continue to help your child complete the weekly expectations. Recently, a note was sent home with a few items to complete weekly (DreamBox, Lexia, reading, and facts practice). Let me know if you need another paper copy. It is also posted in Schoology. Next week, a separate list of misc. conversation items will arrive home.

Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences: Conferences begin Thursday, 10/10. To make sure that the most important items are covered during the meeting, please think in advance about any specific questions you might have. Also, as the meetings are 20 minutes in length, and back-to-back, for the benefit of everyone, please help keep us on schedule. If you foresee needing a longer meeting time, please contact Mr. Huyck in advance to schedule a separate meeting.

Here is the link to our sign-up:

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

Field Trip: Our recent field trip to Gallup Park to view the *Embracing Our Differences* exhibit went very well. The students viewed artwork (paintings, photographs, drawings, etc.) that helped stretch our

thinking to better appreciate our own uniqueness and differences in others. Some students expressed interest in returning to view with their families. In May, we will return to view the exhibit again with the new artwork on display.

New Jobs: We chose new jobs again this past Friday. We choose new jobs every two weeks. It's important for the students to explore new roles and to participate in a variety of ways. Also, some jobs/roles are more interesting than others, so choosing new jobs often allows everyone to take turns and keep it fair. We will choose new jobs again on Thursday, 10/10.

Safety (Lockdown, Security) Drill: Our first Safety (Security, Lockdown) 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.

Walk, Bike, & Roll: This BEFORE-SCHOOL event takes place on Wednesday, 10/9.



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.

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.

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

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

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

Science/Social Studies/Health Rotation: We will begin our science/social studies/health rotation on Monday, 10/21. Our class will move to Ms. Karkau first. We will either study science or social studies with her.

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 our Independent Writing routine. During Independent Writing students get to choose their own writing topics. It gives students opportunities to write in areas that may be outside of the fourth-grade writing curriculum. In addition, we began writing pen pal letters to our first-grade buddies, worked on our October Calendar Pictures, and completed spelling assessments. Coming up, we will continue our independent writing routine, think about what writers do & establish writing goals, focus on improving basic skills & mechanics, work on word study, and move on to our first unit of study: *Realistic Fiction Stories*.



*Reading: We made good progress 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 a text that readers enjoy, can read & understand, can read mostly fluently, and keeps their attention. It is a text that is a productive use of time and works well for the readers. We also reviewed the concept of genres, and discussed fiction and nonfiction genres. Lastly, we continued learning from the use of Lexia via the computer. Coming up, we will continue reviewing genres, focus on choosing/reading "just right" texts, discuss skills that readers need & establish reading goals, enjoy Book Talks, and work on our fall reading assessments.



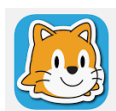
*Math: We are now well into Unit 1 (*Place Value-Multidigit Addition and Subtraction*). So far, Unit 1 has been a review/practice of place value, working with BIG numbers, and rounding/estimating skills with BIG numbers. Our DreamBox routine via the computer has greatly improved. Our two goals in DreamBox 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.



*Social Studies: We have been studying government. We are finishing up our unit. We've talked about the numerous types of 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*.



*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.



*Science: In PLTW, Mr. Tomsik is working on computer science with the students. They are learning to code using the app *Scratch*. We will also begin our science unit, *Built for Survival*, this week. Students will think and explore how plants and animals use their structures to survive.

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.smore.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
- 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