

News 4 You May 2010



St. Edmund's Academy

May 2010

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Fourth Grade News

The annual fourth grade Spring Spelling Bee was held on April 16th in the Hillman Auditorium. After exhausting all the listed words and going into the challenge round, Jonathan outlasted Reilly to win the championship. Jonathan correctly spelled "monotonous" to seal the deal. Sophie finished in third while Amber and Alex checked in fourth and fifth, respectively. It was a lot of fun, and a big pat on the back for all those who were willing to take part in the competition.

May / Summer Birthdays

May

3rd – Kayli
4th – Ariana
8th – Reilly
13th – Sarah
15th – Tommy
22nd – London
28th – Ani

June

4th – Angelina
8th – James
8th – Sawyer

July

7th – Alex
7th – John

August

4th – Nathan
24th – Lemlem

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Monday, May 3, 2010 – Friday, May 7, 2010
4th Grade Pretzel Sale
To benefit Ninos del Lago
- ◆ Monday, May 10, 2010 – Friday, May 14, 2010
ERB Testing Week
- ◆ Wednesday, May 19, 2010
Letterboxing at the Frick
- ◆ Thursday, May 20, 2010
Lower School Fine Arts Festival
6:00pm Auditorium
- ◆ Friday, May 28, 2010
SEA Carnival
6:00pm
- ◆ Monday, May 31, 2010
NO SCHOOL
Memorial Day
- ◆ Tuesday, June 1, 2010
Geography Day
- ◆ Wednesday, June 2, 2010
Moving Up Ceremony
11:00am
- ◆ Friday, June 4, 2010
Battle at SEA - 9:00am
Field Day
LAST STUDENT DAY

Grammar, Spelling and Vocabulary

In grammar, the fourth graders are working their way through the verbs' unit and will finish our grammar extravaganza with a look at both adverbs and conjunctions. We will have a final on verbs in the upcoming week. As yet, a date has not been set. The final unit will most likely feature a short quiz or two as we are in a bit of a time crunch. The usual "Grammar Slammers" could pop up at any time. These always bring back things that we have learned in grammar throughout the year.

Before the break, the fourth grade had a little March madness of their own. Our brackets featured the four teams in a Final Four competition. In our first game, the Sylla-Bulls defeated the Predi-Cats. Raymond contributed 5 points, and Angelina helped out, spelling "lieutenant" correctly. Nathaniel won it with the word "multiply." Game two was won by the Pro-Browns. Sophie spelled the whopper word, "sarcophagus" correctly. Third place was taken by the Quotation-Sharks by the score of 19 to 17. Lemlem spelled "maneuver" correctly to seal the victory and give the Sharks their third place finish. In the championship game, the Pro-Browns were victorious by the score of 19 to 14. Tommy spelled "opposite," a two-pointer, correctly to take down the Spin and Spell March Madness Championship. It was really a lot of fun!

Math

At the end of April, we began our work with fractions. In May, we will continue exploring fractions and decimals and how they relate to each other and how they relate to percentages! As always, estimation, mental math strategies, and number sense will also be an emphasis during this unit, as well as problem solving.

In calendar this month, we will focus on 4 quadrant coordinate graphing, geometric measurement, such as perimeter and area, and 3D Geometry.

Science

Fourth grade is working on a sound unit. We are exploring how sounds are produced and how the sense of hearing detects and interprets sounds. They will discover that they cannot create silence. The students will make ear trumpets to catch and amplify sounds just as ears do. We are experimenting with echoes to see which surfaces absorb or reflect sound waves. The children will learn to vary pitch and volume by varying string thickness and tension. Finally, they will learn how our voices and ears work to allow us to speak and hear. This is a very exciting ending to the fourth grade science year!

Social Studies

We are completing the Southwest and will have our final quiz on this region on Thursday. The study sheets will be available on Monday. Our last unit features the West. It will cover the Rocky Mountain states and the far west, including the states of Alaska and Hawaii. We will have two quizzes in that area. One each in the last two weeks of May.

Writing

In May, we will continue our study of the writing trait "voice." We will use this trait to create personal narratives.

In addition, we will continue journal entries and choosing and reflecting on what we are putting in our Writing Portfolios. These will be showcased at the end of the year with samples of our writings throughout the school year!

Reading

Karana has been rescued as she heads to the mainland to be reunited with her family and friends. The students really enjoyed reading about her adventures, and although the story was bittersweet in nature, it was thought provoking and quite suspenseful. The sequel, *Zia, Karana's niece at the southern California missions* with some of her remaining relatives. It does depict some of the hardships that the island natives were subjected to under the guise of Christianity promotion, and some parts can be a little intense for young readers. You may want to check it out before allowing your daughters/sons to read it if they so desire. Our final novel is Tom's Midnight Garden. A time warp fantasy with British flair!

Art

Students will be working on reflections in art. First, they will look at water reflections and works of art by Monet and the bridge at Giverny. Then they will create watercolors based on what they have learned on reflections. Next, they will look at reflections in the mirror and work on a drawing of themselves looking in a mirror so that the front and back of the figure is shown. We will also look at ways to make a repeated radial design such as a kaleidoscope using cut colored papers.

Music

Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 20th for our annual Fine Arts Festival! Your children will be performing in the Spring Concert at 6:00, and may also choose to participate in our Lower School Talent Show immediately following. Also at our Fine Arts Festival is our Art Show! Come and see our students' artwork on display in the hallways. More information will be coming out very shortly for this event. We hope that most of you can join us on May 20th!

More Games News

The Ranchers are the winners of the 2009-2010 "State a Fact" championship. Will correctly identified Frankfort as being the capital of the state of Kentucky to give them the victory and thus the coveted torch trophy keepsake. The Fishermen finished in second and the Miners were third.

Computer

The fourth grade will work on using websites to find quality information. Students will create a Power Point presentation based upon the information they find using the Internet. Attention will be placed on the use of the computer tools and language arts skills. The students will also continue to work on keyboarding skills in the lab to help make keyboarding and typing easier. They will use proper hand placement and programs and various websites provided by the computer teacher.

Physical Education

Preparation for the Bash, completion of fitness tests and lacrosse fundamentals are the activities in store for the fourth grade students during the month of May. I am sure there will be birthday picks as well. This has been an overall very good year. Thank you.

Stash the Trash

The fourth graders cleaned up the community on Friday, April 23rd as they participated in the "Stash the Trash" project sponsored by the city. It was a beautiful day, and the children worked diligently to complete their task. We certainly made Squirrel Hill a lot cleaner. A big "Thanks" goes out to the moms, Mrs. Schultz, Mrs. Young, Mrs. Bazaz, Mrs. Wecht and Mrs. Moss who acted as the guides we so much needed. Also, a "thank you" to Mrs. Burns for organizing the volunteer parents.

Library

Fourth Grade will begin May with a review of library skills learned this year during assigned research projects. In addition, we will discuss and compare the strategies they used to do their research and introduce the research process they will learn in the fall. Since summer vacation is not far off, we will look at books they might enjoy reading over the summer break. They will receive information on the summer reading programs at the Carnegie Library in Oakland near the end of the month. The *Reading Counts* competition will end on May 8th. Classroom winners and prizes will be announced the following week. Books checked out need to be returned to the library by May 28th.

World Cultures

Our "Tapas Day" was a big success. We had Manchego cheese, bread dipped in Spanish olive oil, black and green olives from Andalucia, Serrano ham, Marcona almonds (the best almonds in the world!), marzipan cookies imported from Spain, and toasted kernel corns covered with cocoa powder (a favorite!). Thanks to Ms. Jennifer Burns (Sawyer's mom) who had the kindness to provide all the food from Whole Foods. The students loved the food and were happy to find out that it was as well healthy, since the fat from the olive oil and the almonds is "good cholesterol". During the first week of May students will learn the main facts about Cinco de Mayo and this period in Mexican history, read a play about it, and celebrate the way Mexican children do, with candy-filled piñatas! Our last units will be about one of the master pieces of Spanish literature: Don Quixote. There will be a review quiz before the end of the year.