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4th Grade Bradley International School Newsletter September 2009

4th Grade Classroom Teachers: Mrs. Finnegan and Mrs. Webster



Classroom Curriculum

- **Literacy:** We have spent the month of September establishing independent reading routines and practicing reading skills learned in previous grades. We are now changing classrooms for reading so that all students have the supports they need to continue to be successful readers. Students are showing progress as we work on our *Writing Alive* curriculum. This is a very structured program that gives students explicit teaching to support their learning as writers. We are currently working on Personal Narratives and will soon move on to Expository writing, writing that explains, informs, analyzes, or convinces.
- **Math:** We are almost done with our second unit in math, *Using Numbers and Organizing Data*. Next, we will move on to Multiplication and Division, building on addition and subtraction skills.
- **PYP Units of Inquiry/Science/Social Studies:** Students have had a great time exploring *Forces of Nature* and their impact on our physical world. The central idea of this planner is that natural and unnatural forces influenced and continue to influence the planet Earth. This is an inquiry into the rights and responsibilities of sharing finite resources with other people and living things.



How to Support At Home

- Students need practice at home to solidify the skills they learn in school. You can help your child to be more successful by ensuring that they do the homework assigned, including reading daily for at least 30 minutes. Teachers provide a reading log to record each child's reading during the week. Please show your support of the importance of reading by checking your child's log nightly and signing off.
- Students also need practice to master the basic addition and subtraction facts (0-10). These facts form the foundation of future learning, especially in light of the fact that we will soon move on to multiplication and division. Mastery is critical to future success in math.



Other Announcements

- Parent/Teacher conferences will be held at the end of October, on the 26th and 27th. We will be contacting you to schedule appointments. We hope to see all of you to talk about how we can help your children to be their most successful.



Dates to Remember for 4th Grade

- Our first field trip is coming up! On Wednesday, October 21st, the fourth grade will visit Dinosaur Ridge to witness the effects of forces of nature in person. More information will be forth coming.