Reminders:

* Please be sure to look at the Wax Museum informational letter coming home today. Teachers wish to make you aware of the process, however, please be assured that the majority of the work will be done at school. The second page in the packet highlights important due dates to keep students on track. We look forward to this Bethke fourth grade tradition- it will be quite the growth experience for your child!
* Keep scrolling for important dates and information on academics.☺

The WEEKS AHEAD

11/11 - No School/Teacher Work Day/End of Trimester

11/14 to 11/18 - Book Fair

11/15 - PTO Meeting 8:35 am Cafeteria

\*\*11/17 - 4th Grade Music Program 6:30 pm\*\*

11/18 – Report cards go home

11/23 to 11/25 - Thanksgiving Break

12/26 - 01/09 Winter Break

01/16 No School

01/20 Bethke Spelling Bee

01/26 Bethke Talent Show

**Academics:**

Math:

We multiply two digit numbers a variety of ways. We begin to develop an inclination towards a certain strategy, or property, and that is a good thing☺ Kids learned how to represent multiplication equations through area models, or arrays (this feels familiar to them from third grade). If a student can *draw* a multiplication problem, you can be assured they have a great conceptual understanding of that operation. The distributive property, partial products and even the standard algorithm are all good ways to get to the answers. Developing the ability to solve math problems a variety of ways is important. “Comparison helps us to think not only about what works in mathematics, but also about how and why things work.” (Tamer, *Multiple Methods*, 2015)

Reading/Literacy/Writing:

Spooky Seasons call for Spooky Stories . . . Washington Irving certainly delivers with his classic, “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow.” It’s Ichabod Crane vs. Brom Bones in the dual for Katrina’s heart. If you’ve read any of Irving’s tales, you know they are short, yet very complex. The rich text provides a great backdrop to talk about main idea and cause and effect, but also, writer’s craft: setting, mood and tone. We transfer these traits to our own writing that resembles the Rip Van Winkle narrative. Students’ own Rip Narratives are hanging outside the fourth grade classrooms!

Core:

We’ve begun our new history unit- Government. ‘Tis the season! ☺ We spin off from the end of the American Revolution, to creating a new way of governing the developing nation. Students read, take notes and discuss the birth of democracy with the “failure” of the Articles of Confederation and state vs. federal government control. The 3/5 rule was especially shocking to the students, with good reason- ask your child about it! It’s fun making the connections between that time period and our current times.

Science:

Science rotations, Round 3, came to an end. Students will move to a new teacher and topic next week! First semester topics are: Magnetism and Electricity, Meteorology, Chemistry I and II, and The Scientific Method.

Thank you for reading our Fourth Grade News!

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