Reminders:

* Have we really been back to school for two weeks now? Time sure does fly! It’s wonderful being back doing what we love- teaching and learning with your kids!
* You are invited to the Parent Math Class being offered at Bethke on February 13, from 3:30-4:30. The flyer for this event comes home in Friday Folders today.
* Keep scrolling for important dates and information on academics.

The WEEKS AHEAD

1/26 & 1/27 - Bethke Talent Show

Week of 2/6 - Student Council sells Valentine Grams

2/7 - PTO Meeting, 6:30 pm (cafeteria)

2/17 - No School, End of 2nd Trimester

2/20 - No School, Collaboration Day

3/13 to 3/17 – Spring Break

**Academics:**

Math:

It’s alllll about fractions! Kids developed an understanding of fractions based on area models and number lines, then were taught the efficient strategy that we all learned we when we young- multiply or divide the numerator and denominator by the same number, and presto! You have an equivalent fraction. We also worked on ordering fractions and used a variety of ways to see the fractions to decide which is the larger one. Following this unit, we will move into adding and subtracting fractions. All our skills from the previous unit will come in very handy.

Reading/Literacy/Writing:

We started our Colorado novels right after break. Our knowledge base of Colorado is much deeper now, and kids are making connections between their Wax Museum characters, Colorado geography, Native American tribes, and now, these book characters and settings. Literature Groups gather in the classroom to discuss connections, read worthy parts aloud, analyze characters, summarize, and pose deep questions. It’s really wonderful to watch these nine and ten year olds discuss literature. We also wrote letters to “someone back home” from the Colorado Gold Rush- a great way to apply what we are learning in Core.

Core:

Our first week back we got messy with salt dough maps of Colorado. We hope you enjoyed our final geographic masterpieces! ☺ This was a great way to tactilely learn about the different elevations and areas in Colorado. Our state is vast and diverse and so beautiful. This gave us a great base as we started to learn about the Gold Rush. Fascinating! What an exciting and adventurous time period for our state. Kids are busy in groups and on their own, creating brochures to lure travellers to their particular mining town. It’s a great way for kids to synthesize all they have learned about the Gold Rush this week.

Science:

Our new science topics have started! Second semester topics are: Energy, Geology I and II, Circulatory System and Respiratory System. We begin with our homerooms and will be rotating classes the week after next.

Thank you for reading our fourth grade news- it’s great to be back! ☺