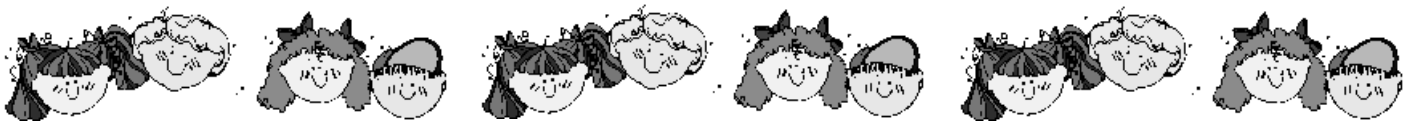

August 20, 2015

Dear parent/caregiver(s),

It's our pleasure to welcome you and your child to 4th grade. We are in for an exciting year at Scarborough Elementary.

We are looking forward to meeting with you soon. The following is detailed information on what we expect of our 4th grade students. The purpose of sending this information is to help you, the parent, know what your child should be bringing home and completing on a regular basis. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us through a note or phone call. Thank you for your continued support!

Our 4th grade parent night will be held in September following the PTA meeting which begins at 6:30 p.m. Please watch your child's Take-Home Folder for more information.

Our goal is to make our classroom a safe and comfortable place for your child. With respect, love, and encouragement we know that together we will make this a successful year!

Love,

Your 4th Grade Teacher

4th Grade Grading Policy

4th grade standards and TEKS will be graded.

Grades will be given after the TEK/Pomotion Standard has been taught and practiced for an appropriate amount of time and mastered skill. Reteaching will be given to select students as necessary.

Grades are based on percentages

- *Classwork-60%*
- *Assessments and Projects-40%*

Grades will be updated regularly on Parent Connection. Please check this weekly to stay informed on your child's academic success.

Graded assignments will be sent home in your student's red folder each Wednesday .

4th Grade Homework Policy

1. A fourth grade student should spend no more than **40 minutes** a night working on homework assignments.

2. **Math** homework will be assigned **Monday-Thursday.** Occasionally there will also be language arts, science, or social studies assignments sent home.

3. Students are also expected to complete work daily in class. Students will be given ample time to complete the activities in class if they use their time wisely. Unfinished work will be taken home as homework and/or finished in study hall.

4. Scarborough Huskies are expected to read nightly in addition to their regularly assigned homework. The students are challenged to **read 30 chapter books** over the course of this school year!!!

5. Students are also responsible for memorizing their multiplication and division facts. Practice should be done at home every night using flash cards, online games, playing cards, dice, etc.

6. Homework is expected to be returned daily, unless otherwise specified by the teacher.

7. Each student is responsible for obtaining a **parent signature every day** of the school week in their agenda.

4th Grade Reward Recess Policy

Maximizing your child's learning experience and developing positive socialization with peers and adults are two of our top priorities here at Scarborough. One area we feel maximizes that learning is respectful behavior in the classroom and around the building. Students have the opportunity every week to earn an extra 25 minute recess on Friday afternoon in addition to their regular recess that day.

Each week, the classroom teacher will look at each student's behavior calendar to see if any problems occurred during the week. If a student did NOT receive any marks on their calendar for that week, they will get to attend the extra 25 minute recess on that particular Friday.

If the student DID receive an infraction that week, they did not meet the reward recess criteria for that week, so they will attend a 25 minute study hall on that particular Friday. Again, students do have an opportunity each week to try and earn the reward recess.

*We feel that by rewarding students for **consistent positive behavior** that it will heighten the learning and positive interaction that is done each day in the classroom.*

CITIZENSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITY

Husky Expectation

1. Completes work in a reasonable amount of time.
2. Stays on task
3. Works well with others
4. Listens to and follows directions
5. Accepts and fulfills responsibility
6. Follow school and classroom rooms
7. Demonstrates appropriate grade level behavior

We will be incorporating the "7 Habits of Highly Effective People" by Stephen Covey, into our daily routines, procedures, and vocabulary to help students become more accountable for their own behavior.

1. Be Proactive
2. Begin with the end in mind
3. Put first things first
4. Think win-win
5. Seek first to understand, then to be understood
6. Synergize
7. Sharpen the Saw

Each student will have a four-9 weeks Citizen and Responsibility chart posted on the back cover of their agenda book. Students will record their behavior on it at the end of each day. Parents will have the opportunity to see and discuss their child's behavior daily. This is a great opportunity to encourage the 7 habits at home. Parents are expected to sign the Citizen and Responsibility chart weekly.

The Report Card Citizenship Grade will be calculated by counting the number of infractions and incomplete homework within a nine week period. (Infractions are considered any color lower than green.)

0-4 infractions in a nine weeks =E

5-8 infractions in a nine weeks=S

9-13 infractions in a nine weeks=N

14+ infractions in a nine weeks=U

4th Grade Husky

SNACK GUIDELINES

Below is an approved snack list. The snack **MUST** be on the list in order for your child to eat it during the designated snack time. If your child brings a snack that is not on the approved list, then they will not be allowed to eat it until lunch.

APPROVED SNACK ITEMS

Fruits and Veggies

(they can bring in a fruit or veggie dip too)

(no bananas please, the peels start to smell by the end of the day)

Crackers

Pretzels

Granola bars

Cereal bars/Dry Cereal/Pop Tarts

Yogurt

Beef Jerky

Trail Mix

Cheese (cubes, string, etc.)

Fruit snacks that are gummy-like and chips are not considered on the approved list

WATER BOTTLES

Your child may also bring in a water bottle to have at their desk during the day that meets these guidelines.

- Plastic Bottle---not as loud if it falls on the floor
- "Pop-top" lid----opens and closes easily to prevent spilling
- Water bottle contains only pure water--- flavored drinks or drink flavor packets are not allowed in the classroom

Brain research indicates that being hydrated gives people more potential to think clearly. The best way to hydrate is with **PURE** water. Please encourage your child to bring water, as the water fountain is not near the classroom and drink breaks will be taken as a class at scheduled times.

4th Grade Daily Schedule

7:45-8:00 Target Math & Morning Message

8:00-8:30 HOWL

8:35-9:20 Conference

9:20-10:35 Language Arts

10:35-12:05 Reading

12:05-12:35 Lunch

12:35-1:00 Recess/Bathroom

1:00-1:05 Agenda

1:05-2:20 Math

2:20-2:45 Science/Social Studies

2:45 Dismissal

Wish List

Paper with Border

Pencils, Pencils, Pencils

Color Printer Paper

Duct Tape

Sharpies-Any Color

Clorox Wipes

Post-Its, Post-Its, Post-Its

Expo Markers-Any Color

Dry Erasers

You make such a difference in your child's education. Thank you so much if you are able to donate to our classroom

Fourth Grade Supply List

2 Binders (1" - 3 ring, no zippers or velcro)

1 packages of notebook paper (wide rule)

24 Pencils (#2) yellow - no mechanical

1 Scissors 1 Box of crayons (24 count)

1 Set of markers (large, washable) \

1 Container for supplies (small, plastic) 5X8

2 Boxes of tissue

1 White glue bottle (8 oz.)

1 Plastic/Vinyl pocket folder red-3 hole punched

4 spiral notebooks, single subject (wide-ruled) green, yellow, blue, purple

1 Package of eraser tops

1 Assignment Notebook to be purchased at school

1 Box of Ziplock bags (girls: gallon, Boys: quart)

2 Composition Journals

1 Pkg of Index Cards (3 X 5)

1 Backpack

2 Packages of 5 count plain yellow dividers (no write on tabs)

1 Small package of sheet protectors

3 Packages of yellow Post it notes (3 X 3)

EXTRAS!!!

School times: 7:45* – 2:45

*Students who arrive after 7:45 are considered tardy. For more information on tardies and absences contact the front office (397-8000).

Dress Code

- Shorts and skirts may be no shorter than four inches above the knee.
- Students violating the NISD dress code will be sent to the front office where they will call home for a change of clothes.
- Students are encouraged to show their Husky pride by wearing the Scarborough spirit shirt on Friday's. Spirit shirts may be purchased from the front office.

Before school

The building opens at 7:15. For student safety please do not drop off children earlier. Fourth grade students are to wait in the gym. Students are expected to read or work on math facts while they wait.

After school

Student choices are riding the bus home, getting picked up by a parent, or going to an after school program. Since the roads around our beautiful new school aren't finished there are no walkers allowed. If you need to change your child's method of transportation contact the front office (397-8000) before 2:00 p.m. Please do not e-mail me with changes.

Toys/Gadgets/Dangerous Weapons

Toys, stuffed animals, electronics and/or playground equipment may not be brought to school. Your child is always encouraged to bring books to read. No one may bring a weapon or toy item associated with weapons for any reason any time. Fireworks, firecrackers, or poppers may never be brought to school. Please seriously review all of the above with your child.

Birthday celebrations

To celebrate your student's birthday store purchased cupcakes may be distributed the last five minutes of lunch. Contact me for more info.

Questions to ask while your child is reading:

Fiction Question Stems:

Why is it important to the story that….

What is paragraph/page _____ mainly about?

What identifies the story as _____ genre?

Which word from paragraph/page _____ helps the reader understand the meaning of the word ____?

When _____ happens, then _____ (cause/effect)

Identify the best summary.

Which sentence shows _____?

Which line from the text supports the idea that _____?

What lesson does _____ learn?

What quotation from the text best supports _____?

Leadership Binder

Our Leadership Binder will be a great resource for students to record their data, set goals, monitor progress, and stay organized while incorporating the 7 Habits.

The Leadership Binder will include the following:

- Agenda
- Wednesday Folder
- Expectations
    - Behavior Goals
    - Attendance Calendar
- DATA TAB
    - Mission Statement
    - Behavior Chart
    - Multiplication and Division Chart
    - Reading Fluency Graph
    - Reading Independent Quiz Graph
    - CDB Scores
    - Emotional Goals
    - Academic Goals
- VICTORIES TAB
    - Student Work
- GUIDANCE TAB

Parents,

Please do not remove any content from the binder unless it is in their Monday or Wednesday Folder.

Thank you in advance!

4th Grade Team

30 Book Challenge!

Dear Parents,

I hope to instill a lifelong love of reading that goes way beyond the walls of our classroom and state tests. Your help and support is needed in encouraging your child to read the *right* kind of books. My challenge for the kids is to read **30 books** this school year!

Researchers in the field of education stress how important it is for kids to read "just right" books. Kids that continue to read "too easy" books never grow as readers. Kids that try to read "too challenging" books can actually regress in their reading level. Kids have been taught what a just "right book" is and how to find one through our Reading Launch Lessons.

Please look for a book list that will be sent home with your child's current ***independent*** reading level on it. Fourth grade readers should be able to read on an independent Level O at the beginning of the year and finish on an independent Level R.

The Scholastic's website is a wonderful resource for you to check out book levels. You can search for a book your child wants to read and look at its "Guided Reading" level to make sure it is around your child's current independent reading level.

Just to give you a reference, the Harry Potter book series starts at a Level V and get more difficult as the series goes on. If your child is really interested in reading something that is higher than their level, please encourage them to wait until that book is a "just right" book. Another great thing you can do is enjoy reading the book together! Kids can really benefit from sharing a book and discussing the story with you.

In class, one of the ways we monitor students' progress with reading and the 30 Book Challenge is by having them record the book titles, dates, minutes, and pages on their reading log. Along with recording this information, they know that they should write a reader's response that supports the skills that we have been practicing in class and also shows that they have read the book. Their reader's response is the heart of their reading. This is where they can make connections and add their thoughts and feelings about what they read. Attached is an example of one we did as a class in August.

Thank you so much for supporting your child's reading. You are so vital to their education and to their reading life! Please let me know if you have questions about reading.

Reader's Response Example

Dear Mrs. Kearines,

Today we finished reading Tomas and the Library by Raul Colon. Before we started reading, we thought the book would be about a dinosaur, a library lady, or a book. When we stared reading the book, we found out that Tomas was moving from Texas to Iowa. We would be nervous to move to a new place. Then we learned that he had to move around a lot because his parents were share croppers. He had to share a house with a bunch of other families. We wouldn't want to do that! We think that he is poor because his family has to make their own toys. Tomas likes to hear his grandpa tell stories over and over again. Grandpa suggests that he'd go to the library to learn knew stories. We think Tomas is nervous going to the library because it will be his first time in a library. The librarian let him check out several books in his name, so we can infer that she is nice and sweet because most librarians wouldn't just let you get books under their name. Tomas goes home and shares his stories with his family. We feel he gained the love of reading by the end of the story. This book seems like fiction, but we were shocked when we found out that it is a TRUE STORY! Wow! If you like true stories, check this book out!

Love,

The 4th grade class

******When students have finished reading their library book, they may take time to write a response at home, use that as their reading log time, and record that on their log.**