

## *Welcome Back!*

08/22/11

Dear Fourth Grade Families,

It was wonderful to meet so many of you last week at the Supply Drop Off. We are off to a great start this year, as each student I have is a real gem and delight to have in class. I know this will be a wonderful year for us all! For those parents I have not met, please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Maria San Paolo and I am your child's new fourth grade teacher. I received my Bachelor's Degree in December of 2000 and my Master's Degree in August of 2004 from (Southwest) Missouri State University in Springfield, MO. I am looking forward to my eleventh year of teaching in the Cassville R-IV School District. I am truly fortunate to be able to work with you and your child this year.

We are currently working on procedures in the classroom to make sure the school year goes smoothly for both you and your child (and for myself!) Listed below is information you will need to know as we begin this new school year.

**eMINTS:** Our classroom is an eMINTS classroom. This means students will be exposed to the same curriculum as other fourth grade classes in Missouri, but the curriculum will be enhanced with technology. We will be learning how to make powerpoint presentations, using the internet for research, and also learning through the use of WebQuests. This is the fourth year of full implementation of eMINTS, so PLEASE be patient, as I continue to learn with your child!

**LUNCH/SNACK MILK MONEY:** In order to save instructional time in the mornings, please send lunch money and snack milk money for the week or month in the provided envelope labeled with your child's full name and amount of money enclosed. Many of you did this for me Wednesday morning, and it was greatly appreciated! Lunch prices are \$1.40 daily for regular lunch, and reduced is \$0.40. Also, students may bring a snack or fruit drink from home, or they may buy milk from the cafeteria for \$0.30 for morning break time. **Students may not bring bags of unpopped popcorn or soda pop. Thank you.**

**CLASSROOM NORMS/CONSEQUENCES:** During the first day of school, we, as a class, decided on norms (or guidelines) for our classroom. Attached is a list of the classroom norms and consequences. If you have any questions about this, please don't hesitate to contact me.

**PARTIES:** As a class, the fourth graders will be working on receiving compliments for class rewards. Students may receive compliments from other teachers or administrators during the day when they, as a class, show excellent "Cattitude." After our class has received 25 compliments, we will have a compliment reward. Also, students may bring in treats if they wish in celebration of their birthdays. If you wish to do this, please just let me know a day or two beforehand. Thank you.

**GRADED/CORRECTED PAPERS:** Papers will be sent home each Monday for you and your child to look over and discuss. Please sign your name on the envelope and send it back with your child no later than Wednesday of each week.

**HOMEWORK LOG:** Starting today, students will write their homework assignments in their homework log notebook. If a student does not complete his or her work in class, it can become homework. Students should bring their homework log home each day (except for Fridays-NO HOMEWORK.)

Please sign your child's homework log on Thursday of each week to verify homework is being done. Thank you.

**EVERYDAY MATH:** This year, we will continue to use the Everyday Math series to teach math concepts. The beauty of this math series is that the concepts taught at one particular time will be seen again and again throughout the year. This will help students remember what they have already learned and will reinforce concepts that students may not have understood the first time. Students will have **daily homework in math** that should be completed after school hours. Most of the homework assignments will be skill sheets or fact practice. If a student does not finish the math journal page in class, it will become homework. It is essential that students bring this journal back everyday, as we use it in the classroom daily. Homework pages will be reviewed in class. I am very excited about this series and helping your child learn more about math!

**READING:** The Scott Foresman Reading series will again be used during our Protected Reading Time (10:00-11:30 daily.) We will continue to use DIBELS and STAR tests as reading indicators to help pinpoint where students may be struggling in reading. The Accelerated Reader program is also used to determine reading comprehension. Students are expected to read 30 minutes a night to practice their reading. As the students read books, they are then tested on the computer to show how well they understood what they read. Students accumulate points based on their reading level, comprehension level, and the amount of books they read. These points are a way for students to keep track of their progress. Each student will be given a point goal quarterly. Students who reach their goal will be rewarded. We will have numerous "Literacy Labs" in the classroom where students will be engaged in reading and writing activities. It is very important for students to be in attendance everyday, as these literacy labs will be hard to make up. Each week, students will have a selection test over the story we have read during the week. Spelling tests will be given on **Friday** of each week. I am sending home a list of this week's words today.

If you have any questions or concerns, or would like to talk with me about the new year, please feel free to contact me. My email address is [msanpaolo@cassville.k12.mo.us](mailto:msanpaolo@cassville.k12.mo.us), or you can call me at school (847-4010) and leave a message. Have a wonderful week and a terrific weekend!

Yours in Education,



Maria San Paolo