

# Effingham Fourth Grade News

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November 9, 2007

## Class Happenings

We have been combining both science and social studies this week as we have studied landforms. As we have learned the definition of each one, we have also named and located the most famous landforms in the United States. Each student will be expected to define the landforms and locate each major one on a U.S. map. They can use their landform book as a study guide for the upcoming quiz.

Nature has been the highlight of science this week. We have been observing and classifying all types of natural materials such as leaves, sticks, grasses, plants, sand and rocks. We are learning that all these items have different properties and serve different purposes on our earth. The students have really enjoyed looking at a variety of rocks that my father collected during his years as an elementary teacher. The different colors, shapes, textures, sizes and the fact that some rocks even float has kept us intrigued the latter part of the week. Next week we will study erosion, volcanoes and earthquakes.

## Special Note

Please look for the special note in your child's Friday Folder about this year's Christmas gift exchange. We will be exchanging books this year to support our commitment to literacy in the school district. The note will include more detail.

## AR Note

I want to remind students and parents that I do not set point goals for Accelerated Reader. Each quarter I will set a goal of books to be read by each student based on their reading level. They need to pass their tests with 80-100% accuracy. The majority of the students should be reading chapter books on their level. There are some great picture books on each child's level and I encourage students to read these books also. I also allow students to read books that are not AR books. I will quiz the students over these books and they can count these toward their goal. Each student is given time to read during the school day but needs to read at home, too.

## Curriculum Highlights

We are finishing our narrative stories on Dream Jobs. The students had a great time thinking about what they want to be and what might happen in their future. The students help each other revise and edit their rough drafts before their final copies are written.

We have been practicing on stating the main idea from a passage or chapter and then choosing details that support that idea. When your student is reading at home have them practice this method for improving comprehension.

In math we worked on equations with one variable and input/output tables. The students are also doing daily problem solving that reviews previous standards. All students who do not know their multiplication facts need to be working on them daily at home. We will be starting harder multiplication and long division soon. Students who don't know their facts will struggle!