

# Effingham Fourth Grade News

By Cherrie Preut

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## Teacher Request

I wanted to remind all parents that each child should be reading every night. I give the students a sustained silent reading time during the Literacy Block. During this time they can read either their guided reading book assignment or books to meet their reading goal with. However, I have had many students this past week who are not finishing their assignment for the next day.

Now, I have added a response journal which should take five to ten minutes to complete after their reading is finished. This helps me to see if the students comprehend what they are reading.

Most fourth graders still need help from parents to set a homework time. They need a quiet place to work and someone to check how they are doing. This can include skimming the chapter and asking questions to check your child's comprehension. Look at their response journal and see what they have written.

Some students are complaining that they didn't have time to do it. Please help me by looking at your child's schedule. Do they have time to do their work or are they busy going to other activities that don't leave them enough time for homework? Are they spending too much time watching television or playing video games? Are they jamming the assignment in as they are falling asleep at night? Reading is the key to success. Please help us to help your child improve in this area. If you want more specific ideas about your child please contact me!

## Calendar Notes

**No School-November 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>  
Happy Thanksgiving!!**

**Christmas Program  
Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>  
7:00 PM**

**Students need to be there at 6:45**

## Curriculum Highlights

Two-digit by two-digit multiplication and review of addition and its properties have been the highlights of math this week. We have been practicing this type of multiplication one step at a time. Slowing down the process ensures that the students understand it fully. Next week the students will have a chance to practice problems by themselves.

The students have done great learning about signal words and text structures. We practiced the signal words by making a match game with each text structure. Then we practiced reading passages and choosing the correct structure. All of the students made great progress understanding or mastering this standard this week.

This week we watched our first videos of the year. One was about earthquakes and the other covered volcanoes. Each of these topics really held the students' attention and the videos gave some excellent footage of our changing earth.

This week and last the students participated in their first class council meeting. They are trying to find ways to reduce the noise level of chairs on our wooden floor. They have also discussed the possibility of having a class janitor to help keep things orderly.