



3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Observer

**April 2010**  
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Village School



# A Peek at the Month of April



**Reading:** Our biography reports and timelines are due April 14<sup>th</sup>. I know many of the children completed writing their report before Spring Break. We will have a little time in class this week for writing; however any unfinished writing should be done at home. The book *Charlotte's Web* will be passed out this week. We have read some in class and then the children will have additional reading and /or writing that will enhance this beautiful story. The reading level of this book may be challenging for your student. I am encouraging parents to read with their child. You can use the strategy of read a page and listen to a page.

**Math:** Chapter 9 is about using the multiplication facts we have learned and applying that knowledge in a more advanced way. We will be extending our facts from  $8 \times 7$  to  $80 \times 70$  to  $800 \times 700$ . We have been doing some of this already. By mid-April we will be learning several new algorithms (partial-products, lattice) these were both highlighted in the family sent home last week. Because this is much different than the way traditional math is taught I encourage you to look over the letter. Additional instructions will be sent home as we move deeper into this unit.

**Ice Cream Multiplication Party-** Please notice that the date for the Ice cream party has been set for April 28. That gives us about 3 weeks to complete any remaining fact families the children have. We have been taking timed test on Tuesdays and Thursdays, if your child would like to come in and take a test during recess or after school have them talk to me. I am always here until at least until 3:30.

**Writing:** We will begin working on our how-to-workshop papers this month. This is a fun writing assignment where your child gets to "teach" a skill or lesson to a student from another class. The children remember being invited to come and participate with the third graders from years past. This makes this topic even more special to them. I will let you know the date of the actual workshop, as many of you may wish to watch your child blossom as a "teacher". Additional writings this month will include shadow poems and letter writing.

**Science-** Please note the remaining due dates for the science fair project. The children have been very excited to share about the work they have done on their projects. In science class we will continue to work on experiments and using scientific thinking as well as the scientific thought process.

## Odds and Ends:

- ✓ On Sunday April 11<sup>th</sup> the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders have been invited to sing at the 11:00 service. If your child is participating they need to be in the choir room at 10:40.
- ✓ **W**e will have a sign up sheet out next week, asking for families to donate items for our Ice Cream Party. If you can donate, we would very much appreciate your help.
- ✓ **B**eginning Monday April 12<sup>th</sup>, we will begin testing the students using a standardized test. We do this in a very low key kind of way. We are asking that the children be rested (as they always are) and fed a healthy breakfast (as they always are). The test will help us as a school to know how well the children have learned the things we have been working on and what things need to be spent more time on.
- ✓ Snack for the next week: Last year we asked parents to provide a group snack each day during the testing. We did this so that as a class we can take a break and have a little nutritious snack. If you are interested in sending in a snack please email me this weekend. Good snack ideas include; nuts, fruit, yogurt, dried cereal and cheese. We are trying to stay away from high sugar and or highly processed foods.

### Upcoming Events

**4/12**—Happy Birthday Dylan

**4/13**—Science Fair--Observations, Conclusions, Graph results

**4/16**—Science Fair--Written Report —Turn in 2 copies

**4/18**—Happy Birthday Owen

**4/23** —Science Fair--Bring Project Board to school

**4/26-27** —Science Fair--Present your project to the class

**4/27**—States and Capitals Test

**4/28**—Multiplication Ice cream Party—2pm

**4/29-30**--Science Fair in gym

**4/30**—Field Day/Family Picnic