

March 2, 2009

Dear 4B Parents,



Biography Presentations: The presentations begin in three weeks!



(March 23-27) Your child should be finished, or close to finished, reading his/her biography and be working on the writing and organization of the presentation at this point. Students should be done collecting the majority of their information and should be organizing it into story form. Presentations are always more interesting when anecdotal information is shared, as well as straight facts. Include interesting, fun, emotional and/or historical events in the person's life. Please email if you have any questions. I'm really looking forward to the effort, enthusiasm and time that your child is putting into this. Students received their presentation times last Wednesday.

The Bibliography Sheet is due this Wednesday. On Thursday we will be typing this information in the computer lab. They will not have to write it again on separate index cards. If they use additional resources, they should be added to the bibliography in the lab.

Two important requirements for the presentations that students have forgotten to include in the past are: the presentations need to be longer than five minutes, but shorter than ten minutes, and the **Contributions** section needs to be included after the "life history" is given. Please remember these.

Reading: February reading logs are due and should be signed and turned in. Your child has received a reading log for March. This week we will be reading a story, *John Henry*, out of our reading book.

Spelling: Students received spelling packets and spelling lists on Friday. The spelling list is also posted on the web site. Students who take the "challenge" spelling test will have their two scores averaged - the score on their pretest (either 95% or 100%) and the score on their weekly test. I'm still working out the details, but I think it will work well. All students are required to know the vocabulary word and are encouraged to try the bonus words.

Math: Last Friday's graded math test was sent home today. The students did well on it. This week: subtracting whole numbers, recording in a checkbook register, unit fractions, measuring and drawing line segments, and solving equal groups problems using division.

Religion: This week we will be watching a video on God's Creation and communities around the world. We will also be introducing the seven Corporal Works of Mercy. We need old magazines for a project. Please send them in with your child tomorrow.

Science: The graded science tests were returned today. The Electrical Circuit kits were returned, so we will be working out of the science books, studying about electrical currents and magnetism.

Social Studies: You will find the corrected Washington Region tests in your child's filer. I graded the map and information sections separately. I was very proud of the great work the students did on this test overall. We will be moving into a study of the early explorers of Washington State after a review of the Native Americans. We will focus on the Coastal and Plateau people this week. This section of our Washington History studies will move us into our mini unit on Lewis and Clark in the coming weeks.

Homework: Homework this week is the spelling packet, math, and the bibliography sheet that is due on Wednesday.

Lenten Masses: Fourth grade will be attending mass on Thursday, March 12th, and Thursday, April 2nd.

St. Martin de Porres - Bring a brown bag lunch and a toothbrush and/or toothpaste for the men at the shelter.

Tuition for Ssamuela: Students should bring in a \$1 for the month of March for our Ugandan student. Thank you.

Atalya is Student of the Week!

Have a great week!