

# Fourth Grade Post

## Reminders!

- Thank you to those who were able to join us at the **Mill Valley Film Festival** for *It's a Girl's World*. We had a wonderful time enjoying strong, fun, and feisty young female protagonists.

- **Parent Teacher Conferences are coming up! Parent Conference Days are Friday 10/19 and Monday 10/22.** Please look for the sign up sheets that have gone home with your children.



- **We need drivers** to Olompali in Novato. The field trip is on **Friday, 10/26 from 9:00am-2:00pm**. We will be walking on a 2.5 mile loop, so make sure to bring your hiking shoes!
- Mark your calendars! We will be having an informational meeting about our **Overnight Field Trip to the Petaluma Adobe**. The meeting will be on **Wednesday, November 7th at 6:00pm** in Room 11 for *ALL* 4th Grade parents.



- **Halloween!** We will be celebrating Halloween in our classrooms **after lunch, 1:20-2:00 on Wednesday, October 31st**. Students will change into costumes after lunch. Due to the shortened day, there will be no costume parade this year.

- **Dia de los Muertos!** We will be learning about this Mexican tradition and celebrating it on **Thursday, November 1st**. Each class will have an altar that recognizes and celebrates loved ones who have passed. Students can bring pictures in on the day to add to the altar.



- To get a glimpse into the wonderful world of 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, check out our private **class instagrams**. You won't be able to see any of the pictures unless you request to "follow."

Ms. Carrade's: ms.carrade

Ms. Thompson: ms.thompsonwca

## Homework

As we are learning the expectations for 4<sup>th</sup> grade, keep working on completing all homework assignments the night they are given and ready to be checked the next morning. This includes the nightly math work, reading comprehension question, and parent signature. On days

where there is writing homework, there will be no math or reading to complete (signature is still needed though).

### *SMART Foundation*

Be SMART! If you've already donated to the SMART campaign, THANK YOU! We rely on your contribution to fund classroom supplies, field trips, art, music, reading and language programs, and computers! This is the second year in a row that the SMART campaign will also fund the 5th grade week-long overnight and the Middle School Outward Bound program. Please donate if you haven't already.

[www.WillowCreekAcademy.org/donate](http://www.WillowCreekAcademy.org/donate)

Every dollar makes a difference!

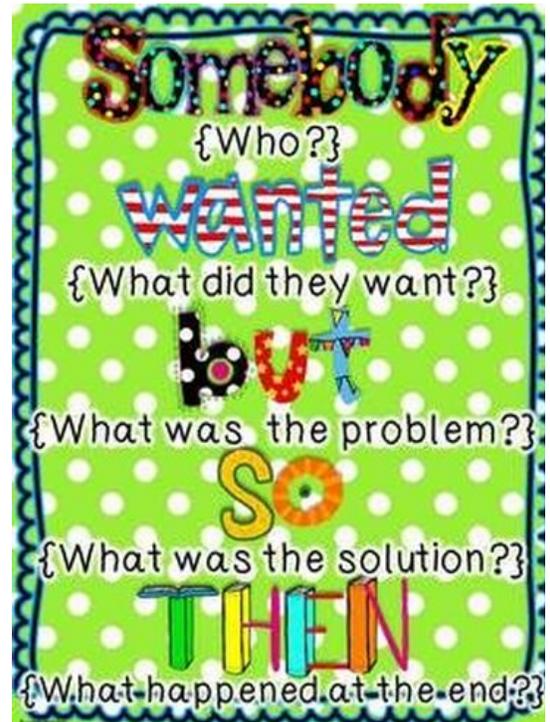
### **A day at the Mill Valley Film Festival!**

This Wednesday we watched Mill Valley Film Festival's, "It's A Girl's World." It was a series of shorts (short movies approximately 10 minutes each) featuring girls as the protagonists. It is part of the Mind the Gap gender equity initiative and students saw a variety of young girls to admire and to question the idea of the traditional female. One of the favorite shorts was, "Jesszilla," about a young girl boxer, and another was about a Brazilian girl who has just moved to the U.S. and befriends a chicken, "Galinha." We laughed and related and learned about strong females around the world, and enjoyed munching on popcorn thanks to our generous room parents!



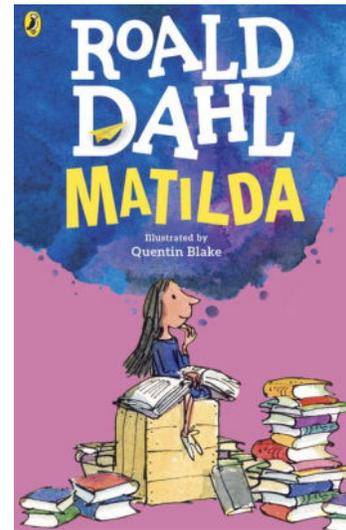
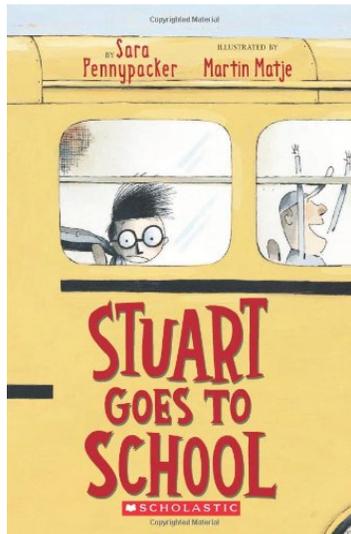
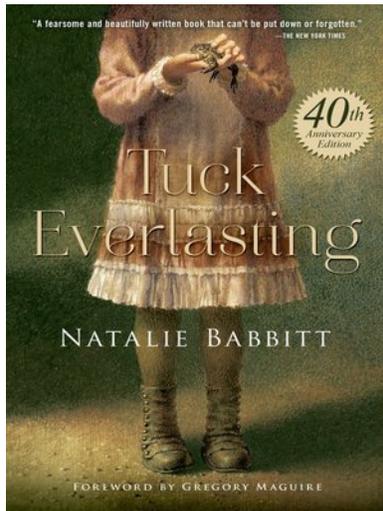
### ELA

This week we continued exploring the relationship between Jessie and Evan during their bet, while studying economic terms. We talked about the terms "**total loss**" and "**crisis management**." We read the chapters 11 and 12, and discussed such topics as "**Based on the new developments in the story, who do you think will win?**" and "**Based on the evidence from the text, what is really making Jessie sick?**" We continued to focus on summarizing (main idea and details), figurative language, vocabulary, and character traits. Ask your child to correctly identify the figurative language in this sentence: "The lemonade sparkled in the sunlight, like a bejeweled waterfall."



## Daily 5

We continued working in our guided reading groups and at Daily 5 stations. Our book groups are going great and some groups have even been able to perform jobs in their literature circles. In literature circles, they are working towards being leaders in their own discussions while gaining a deeper understanding of the text. We are learning how to be independent and focused when not working with the teacher



## Math

Continuing in this week's Friday Post, you will get a **preview** of the math lessons to come for the following week (instead of a review of the content learned). This way you can use this Friday Post as a tool this upcoming week to support your child with their math, should you need it as a reference.

Next week, students will start using different strategies to divide. **We are not teaching long division because mastery of this skill is not until 6th grade.** The reason why it is **not** one of the strategies we emphasize is because there is a large margin of error in calculations and it is shown that students do not deeply understand the concept of division even if they are able to perform the algorithm. So what strategies are we practicing? **We are relying heavily on our basis of multiplication!**

**For example:**

$$72 \div 4 =$$

Well first we rearrange it as:  $4 \times \underline{\quad} = 72$  and then use smaller facts to figure it out.

A kid will know:  $4 \times 10 = 40$  and then can skip count 4s until they reach 72.

Or, a kid will know  $4 \times 10 = 40$ , then find out what fact will be for the remaining 32 will be (because  $72 - 40 = 32$ ).

Then they might think,  $4 \times \underline{\quad} = 32$ , and figure out  $4 \times 8 = 32$ , so  $10 + 8 = 18$  and then  $4 \times 18 = 72$ .... so  $72 \div 4 = 18$ .

Another strategy would be to draw the 4 circles, and start counting up to 72. A way we do this more efficiently is counting by 5s, or 10s, instead of 1s. We are encouraging students to use the most efficient strategy possible!

Please consult classwork pages in your child's math book for examples of this.

*We are noticing all students really need to review their multiplication facts. You can tremendously support your child at home by practicing math facts, skip counting (3, 6, 9, 12...), and having them practice with fun games on this free website: <http://www.fun4thebrain.com/mult.html>.*

*Students are set up with Dreambox this week. Please encourage them to log in to their account and play!*

### Science/Social Studies

In Science this week we explored the reactions people have when using their senses. Students created an investigation that collected data on a response using a particular sense. For example, "Do you like the smell of a pumpkin scented candle?" would be testing the sense of smell. Students collected data from their classmates and then graphed their results and analyzed the data (sound familiar ☺). We then re-watched the video of the lionesses attacking the water buffalo calf and looked at it with a new lens to analyze. We will be wrapping up our unit next week!

The Driving Question:

*As biologists in our animal sanctuary, how can we rehabilitate an injured animal to live as independently as possible?*

### Writing

We have worked fast and furiously to plan, type, revise, and present our second short story! This ends our narrative unit, and while we are sad to see our fiction-writing end, we will soon be starting our opinion essay unit!

### **Specials:**

Below are the schedules for PE. Make sure on these days to wear appropriate shoes and clothing.

**Carrade:** Tuesday 11:20-12:00 and Thursday 2:20-3:00

**Thompson:** Monday 2:20-3:00 and Tuesday 11:20-12:00

### **Contact:**

If you have any other questions or concerns, please feel free to e-mail us at [athompson@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:athompson@willowcreekacademy.org) or [jcarrade@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:jcarrade@willowcreekacademy.org).