



Fourth Grade Post

Reminders!

- We have a field trip to the **Mill Valley Film Festival** on **Wednesday, October 11th**. We will leave on a bus at **8:45 and be back by 12** for lunch. Ms. Thompson, Ms. Carrade, and Mrs. Schmidt need two volunteers each. Please contact your respective room parent to volunteer.
- Parent Teacher Conferences are coming up! Parent Conference Day is Friday 10/13. Some other time may be available during the following week, but are not a guarantee (unless confirmed by the teacher). Please look for the sign up sheets that are going home with your children.
- To get a glimpse into the wonderful world of 4th 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
Mrs. Schmidt: mrs.schmidtwca
Ms. Thompson: ms.thompsonwca

Homework

As we are learning the expectations for 4th 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

THANK YOU if you've already contributed to the WCA SMART Fund! We are not asking for any donations to the classroom this year. So if you want to contribute to the supplies in the classroom, and of course the Specials classes, please just donate directly to the SMART Foundation. That money gives us the classroom budget to do the amazing things we love to do with your kids everyday!

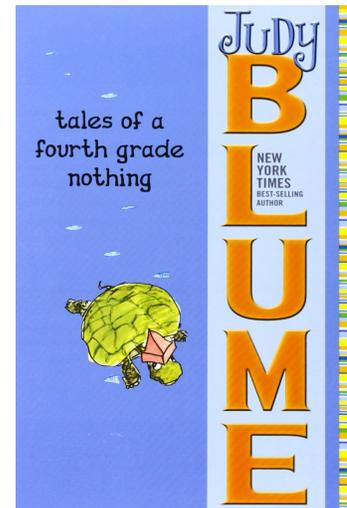
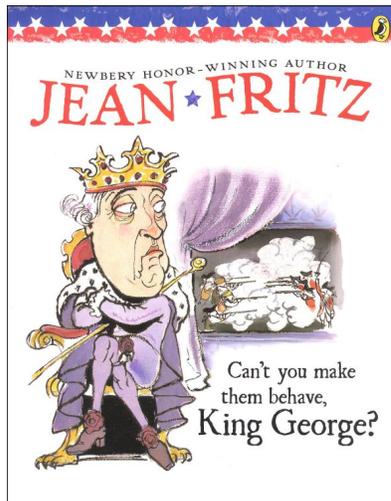
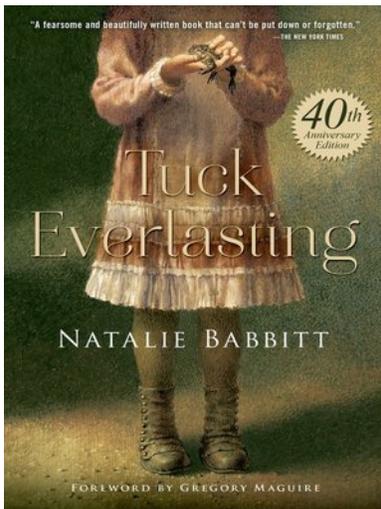
To make a donation online, please go to <http://www.WillowCreekAcademy.org/donate>

ELA

This week we continued exploring the relationship between Jessie and Evan during their bet, while studying economic terms. We talked about the terms “negotiation” and “malicious mischief.” We read the chapters 9 and 10, and discussed such topics as “Was the negotiation between Evan and Jessie successful?” and “Do you think Evan or Jessie is regretting the lemonade war?” 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: “Jessie was all in Knots.”

Daily 5

We continued working in our guided reading groups and at Daily 5 stations. We introduced our technology station. One of the websites we used was Spelling City. It is a website where students can practice their spelling with good fit words in fun and engaging ways. 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



Math

This week we finished our unit on data and moved on to Unit 3 Multiplication and division. Students have started using strategies of smaller multiplication facts they know to figure out larger equations. Such as:

$$12 \times 14 =$$

well, I know $12 \times 10 = 120$ because that is like $12 \times 1 = 12$ (times 10) so then I just need to figure out 12×4 . If I don't know that fact, I can use my doubles:

$$12 \times 2 = 24$$

so I'll do that again: $12 \times 2 = 24$ and then

$$24 + 24 = 48, \text{ so}$$

$$12 \times 4 = 48$$

and to return to the original problem: $120 + 48 = 168$.

This shows students how to decompose higher numbers to friendlier numbers, and reveals patterns among all numbers so students always can use something they know to get to the desired answer. Rote memorization is not the only way! Cheers to that :)

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!

https://play.dreambox.com/login/school_login/classroom?asp=1309278&district=z7a8&school=willowca

Science/Social Studies

In Science this week we explored out the structure of the eye and how it functions. Students made a model of an eye using a lens to simulate a cornea lens, and the retina. Students discovered that when they held the two too close together, or far apart, the image was blurry. But at the perfect distance, the image showing through the cornea lens was crisp. This led them to discover that people who have blurry vision have it because the shape of their eye makes that distance between the cornea lens and retina either too close or far apart. But that if a second lens is placed in front of the cornea lens (like glasses or contacts, sound familiar?) then the eye can see clearly.

Then students did a "shoebox" simulation discovering how important light is for the eye to see. It has been a very engaging week in Science!

The Driving Question:

As bioengineers, how can our understanding of animals' physical structures and their functions, guide us to build a successful prosthesis?

Writing

We had such an amazing celebration on Monday! We had Café treats and presented our narratives while working on speaking and listening skills. Later this week, we began writing another narrative, this time going quicker through the steps and typing our draft instead of writing.

Specials:

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

Carrade: Monday 2:20-3:00 and Wednesday 1:20-2:00

Thompson: Monday 2:20-3:00 and Wednesday 1:20-2:00

Schmidt: Tuesday 11:20-12:00 and Thursday 2:20-3:00

Contact:

If you have any other questions or concerns, please feel free to e-mail us at athompson@willowcreekacademy.org, jschmidt@willowcreekacademy.org, or jcarrade@willowcreekacademy.org.