

May 27, 2011

Dear Incoming Fourth grade students and parents:

With all of the wind and rain we've had of late it's hard to believe that summer is almost upon us. Soon you'll be enjoying the "care-free" world of summer vacation. And while I encourage you to have lots of fun, I'd also like to remind you to not forget about school completely. Each year teachers spend the first few weeks of school reviewing concepts from the previous year. Students who practice their skills over the summer will be able to transition into new concepts much quicker than those who don't. Simply put, your education is like any other skill: "If you don't use it, you lose it".

To keep those skills sharp, I need students to continue practicing their reading and math during the summer. A separate letter explaining our summer math program and reading requirements are included in your package. Students should enter 4th grade able to add, subtract, multiply and divide to twelves. Listed below are concepts which can help your child review and retain *what they have already learned*:

Addition and Subtraction:

- Remembering place values of ones and tens *Example: In 85, which place is the eight in? Answer: tens place*
- Practice adding and subtracting, with zeros.
- Practice adding and subtracting with decimals (money) *Example: \$1.75- \$0.50 = \$1.25*
- Subtracting Two-Digit Numbers *Example: 22-14 =8*

Multiplication and Division:

- Number patterns (count by 2s, 3s, 5s, etc.)
- Remember and recite timetables from 0's-12's
- Write and solve 1 digit division problems. *Example: $8 \div 4 = 2$*

Other Skills:

- Compare Two-Digit Numbers using <, > or =
- Round to the Nearest Ten
- Understanding geometric shapes (triangle, square, rectangle, and circle)
- Writing a number sentence

Please make sure that you also complete the on-line summer math program and the book jacket project for reading. I will collect the book jacket on the first day of school.

Taking the time to help your child over the summer is one of the most important things you can do to help them succeed in 4th grade. I can't wait to see you next year! Until then, however, enjoy your summer!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Johnson