



3rd/4th/5th Grade Newsletter #1

September 10, 2007

New Baby on the Way!



Stephanie's official due date is October 4th, but her doctor says that Steph could deliver any day between now and then. Her baby is a good size and is in the right position for a healthy delivery. We are very excited for Stephanie and Justin and are very curious about when the big day will be. Look for a poster in the hallway with a calendar on it. You can write your name and time on the day you guess Steph's baby will be born. Students, parents, staff, and siblings are invited to participate. Let's see who gets the closest! Only make one guess :)



Newsletter Still Nameless!

We are still looking for a clever name for our classroom newsletter. We asked for suggestions from the children last week as a part of one of their homework assignments. Now we are opening up the challenge to the parents as well. Let us know if you have any suggestions. We will vote on all of the entries and choose a name by the next edition (in two weeks).



Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent Teacher conferences are coming up! They are scheduled for October 8th and 9th. There is no school held on these two days, so please make other arrangements. The sign up sheet for conference times will be up next week. Choose a time when you can attend with your child present. They will participate in the first part of the conference and then go to the multi for the remainder. These conferences will be held with Aimee, because we all hope Stephanie will be unavailable by that time!

Pillows

Bring 1 yard of fabric and a pillow form (small size) to school by this Wednesday, Sept. 12th. If you're interested in helping to make the pillows, see Aimee or Stephanie.

Wouldn't It Be Cool

If it wasn't so hot and humid that we have to keep the air so low that the kids need sweaters and the pregnant teacher is comfortable.

Writer's Notebooks

- *may have lines or be blank
- *should **NOT** have spiral binding
- *should be at least 6" x 8 1/2"
- *may be a composition book
- *should be regular paper instead of rice paper
- *should stay open easily

Parent Night

Thanks to everyone who attended parent night last Wednesday. We enjoyed spending time with you and your children. Also, thanks to Greg Witmer for being in charge of the pizza. The cost worked out to be \$3 per person. If you haven't contributed and you had pizza, you can leave money in William's mailbox in the classroom.

Class Trip

We are trying to make a decision about our class graduation trip in the spring. The two options are Whispering Hope Ranch outside of Payson or a family cabin in Alpine, AZ. Please review the information sheet you received in your mailbox and turn in your response by Friday, September 14th if you want your opinion to be heard.

Newsletter Submissions

We will be publishing a class newsletter twice a month. Some of the content will be from us as teachers, but we also want to include submissions from the parents and children. We are working on some of these

entries in class and for homework. If you have something you would like to share with the other families in the class, email it to Aimee at aimeeb@cox.net. We also plan to teach the children how to put together the newsletter and eventually pass that task over to them.

Sign-in

Mary asked that we remind all of the parents and children about the sign-in and sign-out procedures. Children in our class may sign themselves in in the mornings. **An adult** must sign all children out at the end of the day. If you are signing the sheet, you should sign your own name, not your child or parent's name. If a child arrives late or leaves early, they must additionally sign the log in the office.



Change of Clothes

Since school started, we have had three incidents in which children were in need of a change of clothing and

did not have one in their cubby. All children should have a change of clothes appropriate to the season in their cubby at all times. On Friday when the teachers checked, only 4 out of the 19 children in the class had a change of clothes in their cubby.

Joke of the Day

Johnny's mother had four children. The first was April, the second was May, and the third was June. What was the name of her fourth child?

Johnny!

Wouldn't It Be Cool

If canes had a grabber on the end so you could walk and pick things up if you had hip surgery or are pregnant?

Tie Dye Day



Tie dye day will be held on Thursday, September 20th in our classroom. We'll start setting up at about 1:00pm.

Sign up if you'd like to help!

Arizona Study Fact or Fiction



Arizona became a state on February 14th, 1912: Fact

Arizona had several capitals before deciding on Phoenix: Fact, the capital started in Tuscon, moved to Prescott, back to Tuscon and then to Phoenix.

The State Flag of Arizona has 15 rays after the first 15 colonies: Fiction, the Arizona State Flag has 13 rays after the first 13 colonies.

The state bird of Arizona is the Roadrunner: Fiction,

The state bird is the Cactus Wren

The state flower is the Cactus Blossom: Fact, it is the Saguaro Cactus Blossom

The official neckwear is the Bolo Tie: Fact

The State Flag of Arizona has the same blue as the United States Flag: Fact, It also has the same red as the US Flag.

Carl Hayden was our first senator: Fact

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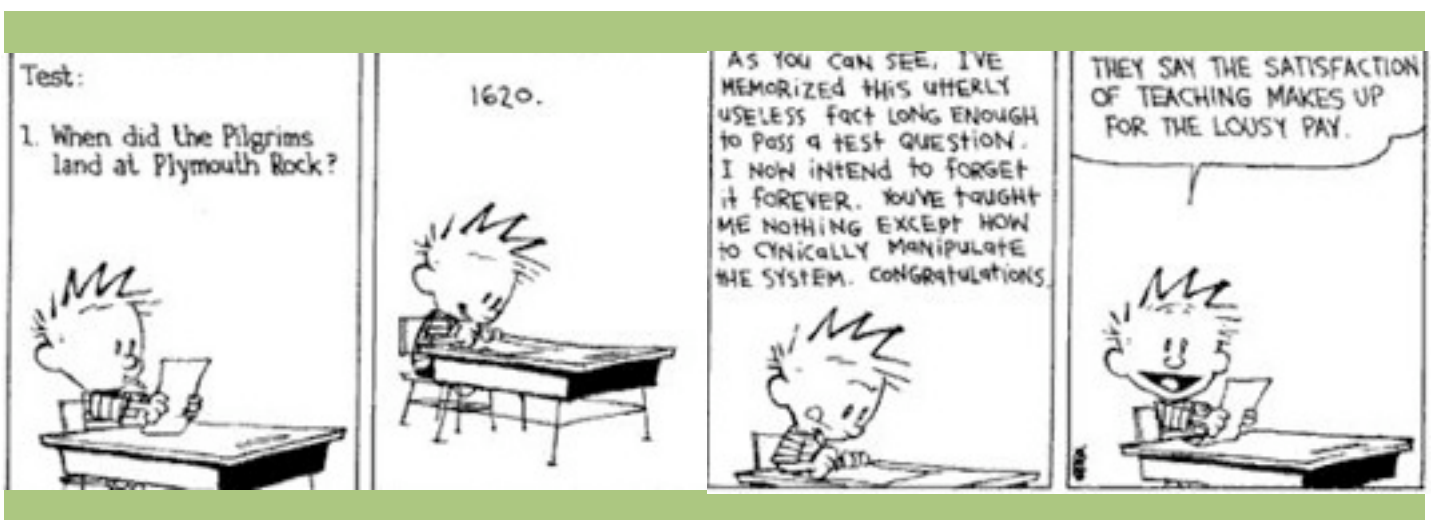
Carl Hayden's Wife sewed our first flag: Fact

Mystery Kid of the Newsletter

This member of the class was born in Arizona at Good Samaritan hospital. She can play the piano and loves music. Her favorite thing at the Seed is morning meeting. She also likes recess best. She doesn't like ice cream and chocolate, usually. Her favorite books are the Harry Potter Series.



Who
am
I
?



FAQ's from Parent Night

What is a "Writer's Notebook?"

- No Spirals
- Poems, Journals, Pictures, Drawings
- They are to create and inspire writing
- They should travel to and school and back home each day so they're close when you are inspired to write.
- Guard them with your lives!
- Bring them by Monday, September 10th

How are we doing grammar?

- Basic grammar tip of the week
- Studying parts of speech
- In our writing, etc..
- Modeling

How are we doing Math?

- Divided into math groups based on grade levels.
- Different curriculum for each group.
- Whole group lessons
- "Investigations" math curriculum

How do you do Math facts?

- Every night they need to do at least 10 minutes of math facts
- "Math Facts" refers to the memorization of the basic facts of math
- 0-20 for addition & subtraction, 0-12 multiplication & division
- Websites, flashcards, time tables, games, out loud, with movement
- ***Be sure to write down function (+ - x /) and initial it every day!
- If we do math facts practice during class, we will sign and notate it in their binder on their weekly update.

What about cursive?

- It is a state standard!
- 3rd grade will just begin, increase in the spring
- 4th grade will have more practice, move to always in the spring
- 5th/6th will be a review and will use it functionally

What do you do with Friday Folders?

- Every Friday we give you the yellow folder.
- It should have math quizzes, homework for you to keep, the weekly update with teacher's responses, graphs of the math quizzes.
- Your job is to review the week's work and write a response to our comments.
- The kids need to finish the math quizzes and turn them in with the weekly update on Monday

What the heck is a Roxaboxen?

- Individual out door areas.
- Kids can bring things from home to trade or decorate their area.
- A list of guidelines created by the kids will go home
- Based on a book by Alice McClaren

What should be in their Binders?

- Follow their orange sheet in the very front.
- It should always have their weekly updates, homework, and their spelling lists.
- We check binders on Fridays- beginning THIS FRIDAY!

How will we conduct our studies?

- AZ as a group right now
- Individual components will come
- Presentations will happen to culminate

What is NBT or NGT?

- Stands for No Boy Talk or No Girl Talk
- Because of the various ages and family beliefs in the classroom, talk about boyfriends/girlfriends or liking boys/girls is prohibited at school

How does the spelling work?

- On Monday you get the list
- On Monday you get the first homework which is spelling 3x's
- On Thursday you get the second homework which is spelling sentences
- Each night children should be reviewing their words at least once. Some make flashcards to help facilitate this process in study hall.
- On Friday we have a spelling test

Grades

- Each student accumulates grades for homework, tests, and in class work.
- Grades are done on a 90 scale.
- We do this to better prepare the students for transitioning out of our school.
- This year we will try to do quarterly grade reports that are quantitative and progress reports will be qualitative and done with the regular school calendar. (October, January, and May)
- 3rd Graders will have the option to opt out of the quantitative reports. If we don't hear from you, we will assume that you want them.