

## What's Up?

### **Fourth Grade May Edition**

#### Religion:

This month fourth graders will cover chapters 12 and 13 “Thy Will Be Done” and “Sacraments in the Church”. These chapters focus on the “body” of the church and how each member is special and important. We will also begin our Family Life Unit. Fourth grade’s focus will be on individual talents, personalities, and gifts. The end of the unit will focus on the miracle of life, childbirth, and the four stages of human growth.

#### Math:

The month of May will be spent learning, practicing, and perfecting the skills of adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions. Towards the end of the month all math skills taught throughout the year will be reviewed and tested in preparation for fifth grade! Lastly, we are excited to announce a new computer program called “Mathletics” which all students will be introduced to. This will provide 4<sup>th</sup> graders with an exciting opportunity to practice their computation skills, compete against other fourth graders around the world, and gain hands on tutorials for concepts that might still present a challenge. This program will be used in the classroom, in the computer lab, and at home. More information is coming soon.

## Language Arts:

**Reading:** This month students will get the opportunity to practice responsibility with Literature Circles. Two different chapter books will be used according to students reading level and each week students will rotate roles of Discussion Leader, Vocabulary Finder, Illustrator, and Summarizer. They will meet in their groups daily to discuss each chapter with a guided set of questions. These will focus on comprehension, understanding vocabulary, and character development. The chosen books for this are entitled “ Fourth Grade Rats” and “Island of the Blue Dolphins”.

**Step Up to Writing:** We will explore the different types of opening sentences for paragraph writing. These styles will be used when writing a paragraph about “Gold Camp” and a longer essay about “Being Ready for Fifth Grade”. As always we will continue to practice summary writing and developing strong sentences within the paragraph structure.

**Spelling:** Students will continue to develop their auditory discrimination skills, breaking words into syllables, and parts of speech with weekly spelling lists. These words will either focus on a particular pattern or will reflect vocabulary terms from other areas of curriculum. Feel free to incorporate technology at home by visiting:

[www.spellingconnectionsonline.com/#](http://www.spellingconnectionsonline.com/#) This site allows you to input your child’s spelling words to create games and quizzes to help drill these words at home.

[www.spellingcity.com](http://www.spellingcity.com)

This site has the children's weekly spelling words and provides many activities to help your child review and practice.

**English:** Throughout the month of May, we will continue to practice parts of speech and reviewing what makes certain words fit into those specific categories. We will also look at compound sentences and do some simple sentence diagramming.

**Social Studies:**

The month of May will be split between two separate activities : preparing for our big "California!" show and covering unit 4 entitled "California's Growth and development Since 1850". There are a total of nine lessons in this unit! We will be moving quickly - so hold on to yer hats!

**Science:**

Fourth graders will be learning how minerals are identified and how rocks form. They will also learn their classifications, and the rock cycle.

**Computers:**

This month fourth graders will cover an on line safety course. Watch for a letter describing this topic to be sent home next week. Students will also create a Hyperstudio project having to do with Gold Camp.