



jewish community  
day school of rhode island

# 4<sup>th</sup> GRADE Classroom News

March 14, 2008  
Mrs. Sugerman

## FOURTH GRADE NEWS...

### Language Arts (Writing, Reading, Spelling)

**Writing...** We completed the *Best Day Ever* paragraph last week. Just so you know most students really love their birthdays and family vacations! In grammar, we are concentrating adjectives and on using quotes correctly in our writing pieces. Our next writing will be an integrated piece about the walls of water. G'veret Kaunfer will provide the Biblical information and students will create a piece about the exodus from Egypt.

**Reading...** I am truly impressed with the pringle can book reviews. They are just incredible. I am amazed how your children were able to transform the pringle cans into characters and objects from their books. Great job!

**From our Guided reading groups...** We completed the book... *from the Mixed up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*. As we neared the end of the story we discussed how Claudia's objective changes. At first, her main focus was to run away to be adventurous and prove a point. Now she has this need to be different and find out who created the statue called *Angel*. She insists she won't go home until she discovers the truth that has even baffled the experts. To reach her goal she and Jamie go to extraordinary lengths to get the information they need and in doing so sidestep some unexpected obstacles. The climax of the story was when Claudia and Jamie actually met Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler. Ask your child what happens next. This story was certainly full of humor, suspense, and intrigue. This week, as a follow-up activity we asked each student to give their opinion of the story.

**SPELLING...** Last week, the objective was to spell words with the vowel pairs *ie* and *ei* and the vowel diagraphs *ie* and *ei* while applying the spelling rule. This week the lesson was to spell words in which *au* and *aw* spell the /o/ sound. We actually had the test for this lesson this week. Due to the length of the state presentations, this was the only lesson we've had since the last newsletter.

**MATH...** Last week we reviewed three types of triangles and the names of the different angles. This week, students used pretzel sticks to create angles and triangles to reinforce these 2 concepts. It was a nice treat and drove home the point. At the same time we talked about congruent figures and how they can slide, turn, or flip and still be congruent. Next week our focus will be on similar figures and line and line segments.

**From the problem solver series...** We are solving word problems using the *working backwards* method. I have enclosed one for you to try. In addition, I have included some word problems that may require combining strategies.

**Social Studies...** We are in the midst of our state presentations. So far so good! Congratulations to everyone! They should be proud of their efforts. This year we have been treated to a variety of games, activities/stations running concurrently, tours, lectures, sing-a-longs, and of course foods from the states. We have learned so many interesting details about these states. Just a reminder that I am taking photos and they will be given to each student when we conference about their report. Our last research assignment for the year will be discussed soon. I want to give everyone a chance to catch their breath!

**From the text...** We read about immigrants, ethnic groups, and poverty. We also briefly discussed how our government works.

**Science...** The fourth graders have been enthusiastic in our study of magnetism. We spent some time "meeting our magnets," understanding how they work and why. We have studied the "personal space" of a magnet (magnetic fields) through a few hands-on experiments (involving iron filings and corn syrup!) and learning about magnetic poles. Students have discussed how alloys are made and why people with pacemakers can't go through metal detectors. The fourth graders have shown their astute observation skills and memories, using scientific vocabulary and applying it to their hypotheses.