

# NEWS FROM ROOM 4

## OCTOBER 2018 EDITION

Hello Families!

It was wonderful to meet so many of you at Back to School Night! I look forward to talking more with you about your student during Parent-Teacher Conferences the week of October 8th. You should have received a Parent-Teacher Conference confirmation letter on light blue paper that told you the day and time you are scheduled. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for all the donations of Goldfish, graham crackers, animal crackers, and pretzels! Please do keep those coming throughout the year. Also, thank you for your generous support of the School Book Fair. Another way to stock up your home library and contribute to the classroom is through Scholastic book orders. Students will receive a Scholastic book order form once a month. Book order purchases help our classroom earn Scholastic points that I can use to buy new books to keep our classroom library fresh.

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### FIELD TRIP VOLUNTEERS

A big thank you to those of you who have begun the volunteer clearance process! We are looking forward to our first field trip to see the Monarch butterflies on November 16th, 12:00-2:10pm. We need more volunteers to chaperone our trip, so please register as a school volunteer if you are able. Fingerprints and TB clearance are required of all field trip volunteers per new district policy. In addition, comprehensive insurance is required for all drivers.



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### READING ACADEMY

We are wrapping up our first round of Reading Academy this week. The last day will be Thursday, October 4th. The second round of Reading Academy will begin on October 15th and go through November 16th.

The 2nd grade teachers (Mr. Daniels, Mrs. Lew, and I) work as a team to do Reading Academy, so students will be with one teacher for Monday and Tuesday and a different teacher for Thursday and Friday. This allows students to learn from different teaching styles and develop a variety of skills. Every 2nd grader will get a chance to do a round of Reading Academy at some point this year. Each round is approximately one month long. Families of invited students will be notified via a permission slip at least one week before the round begins.

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### IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

October 4th: Last Day of Reading Academy Round 1  
October 5th: No school - Teacher Professional Development Day  
October 8th-12th: Early 12:50pm Dismissal for Parent-Teacher Conferences  
October 15th-November 16th: Reading Academy Round 2  
October 27th: School Carnival

## READING

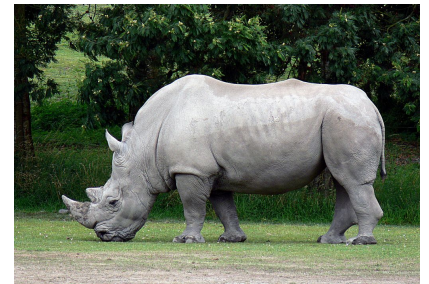
We are wrapping up our unit about Friends and Family. In the last couple of weeks, we took a deep dive into non-fiction books. I opened up the non-fiction section of our classroom library and students were excited to begin exploring books about animals like sharks, spiders, and blobfish, art and artists, earth and outer space, and various jobs in the community.



We also read non-fiction texts about horses, rhinoceroses, and whales together as a class and had very rich discussions. It was fascinating and delightful to hear what students already knew about these animals, see their curiosity come alive in their questions, and see the joy in their faces as they found answers to their questions as we read books about these animals and made KWL charts.



KWL stands for **know**, **want** to know, and **learned**. KWL charts are a reading comprehension strategy specifically used when reading non-fiction texts. It helps students to better remember what they read. I encourage you to practice this at home with your student to get them in the habit of reflecting on their non-fiction books.



Here are the steps:

1. Before we read a non-fiction text, we start by thinking about and discussing what we already know about the topic to activate our existing knowledge.
2. Then, we think about what we want to know and make a list of questions we have about the topic. Next it's time to read the text and look for answers to our questions.
3. After we read each page, we stop and ask ourselves, "What did we learn on this page?"
4. At the end of the book, we recall three things we learned from the book.

Investing a few extra minutes before, during, and after reading can make a big difference and help kids to really learn from their non-fiction books. It will serve them well as they continue on in their school careers and are expected to gain knowledge from reading textbooks, do research projects, write reports, and make presentations.

Students also got individual book boxes in class recently. They learned to use the Goldilocks Rule to pick just right books that are not too easy and not too hard, but just right for them. We talked about how reading "just right books" is the best way to grow as a reader.

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## MATH

We have been learning how to measure objects and compare their lengths and widths using centimeter rulers and meter sticks. We are now working on the challenging concept of determining how much longer or shorter one object is as compared to another.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

On September 24th, we celebrated Mid-Autumn Moon Festival! We read the Chinese myths about how various people and creatures' images got on the moon, made paper lanterns, and listened to Chinese orchestral music.