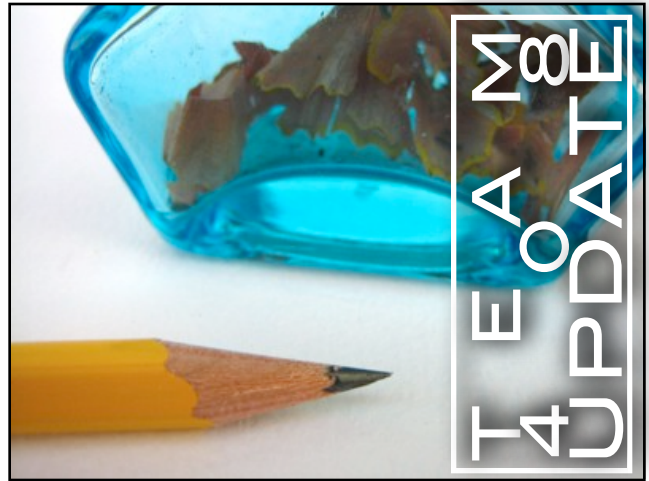


UNDERWAY! Friends and family of Team 408 can expect to receive periodic updates regarding news, topics of study, and activities that students in my room are participating in throughout the year. The TEAM 408 UPDATE is intended to strengthen support for learning from home by keeping parents and guardians informed of news and progress in the classroom. Please make note of the web URL address in the upper right corner of this newsletter. It is the address for my school notes page which will also feature classroom news, information about what we're studying, and a calendar of classroom events. Because I am teaching science to both my students and Mrs. Williamson's class, the TEAM 408 UPDATE will not include much information related to science. Science news and information will be presented in a science newsletter that will be sent separately to her students as well as my students at least once a month.



SMOOTH TRANSITION: Students have become comfortable with our fifth grade morning rotation schedule for math, reading, and science. The focus of our afternoon homeroom time during the first two weeks of school has been establishing expectations, learning new procedures, and beginning our fifth grade writers workshop.

READING AND WEEKLY FOLDER LOGS: Starting this week students will be required to keep up with weekly folder logs in addition to the weekly reading logs that they've already been keeping up with. On most Tuesdays your child will bring home a work folder that may contain graded student work (e.g., homework, quizzes, tests), classroom newsletters, and other informational pages from the school. The number of papers in each child's weekly folder will be counted and recorded by either myself or the classroom assistant Mrs. Hosey (stapled packets will count as one paper). When you get your child's folder each week please count the number of papers inside, remove and review your child's work, and then sign the weekly folder log in the folder to verify that you've received all of the papers that were originally sent home. This procedure helps to ensure that you see all of your child's work and not just what he or she might want you to see. Likewise, please sign your child's weekly reading log each day to verify that your child is spending at least thirty minutes reading independently and uninterrupted at home. Students are free to read whatever they want at home as long as you approve and it is appropriate, from novels to articles in the sports section of the newspaper. Your child's daily independent reading time is also a good time for him or her to read books that can be tested on with Accelerated Reader in the interest of earning points toward his or her quarterly reading goal. Accelerated Reader is a major emphasis in my classroom throughout the year. The best way for a child to improve his or her reading ability is to keep reading. Students will be held accountable for achievement of their goals and encouraged to continue progressing in their reading development during frequent individual reading conferences with me.

STARTING EARLY THIS YEAR: Each year Millbridge Elementary School participates in a canned food drive to help meet the needs of those less fortunate by donating food to Rowan Helping Ministries in Salisbury. It is such a worthwhile cause in addition to being a way that students can gain a feeling of satisfaction for helping others. As a way of increasing the number of cans the school collects overall I typically like to play up the competitive side of the canned food drive pitting our class against other classes in the school to see who can gather the most food to donate. Three years ago my class collected the most cans, but we've been beaten out by one or two classes each of the last two years. As a way to get a head-start for this year I would like to get the word out now to friends and family of TEAM 408 that we are collecting cans starting NOW! If we can start a steady stream of non-perishable canned goods coming to room 408 between now and December, we'll surely beat last year's total. So, if you're able, please start collecting canned goods to send to us so that TEAM 408 can get off to a fantastic start to this year's canned food drive. You can just begin collecting them now and send them in closer to the deadline or you can start sending them to school now. THANKS!

KEEP IN TOUCH! Please do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail or with a note if you ever have any questions or concerns at any time. Your child's progress is our common interest. Please let me know what I can do to help your child to succeed this year.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Mr. Rockwell

EMAIL Mr. Rockwell anytime: mrocks7@windstream.net

