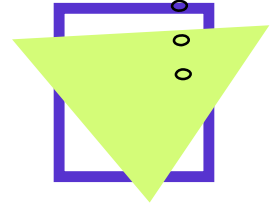


March 18, 2009

Volume 3, Issue 8

# 4Si FourSight

Hunnewell  
Elementary School



## What We're Studying

### Conversation Starters

- We just finished reading *Max and Me and the Time Machine*. Where would you go if you could travel back in time?
- The author Grace Lin is coming soon. What do you think of the story *The Year of the Dog*? Does the story make you think of a question you want to ask her? Would you consider her an American immigrant? How has her culture influenced her writing?
- What are the three pillars that make a great story? Are one of the pillars more important than the other?
- Let's tryout some subtraction problems together. I only know one way to solve subtraction. Will you teach me another way to solve subtraction?

We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://TeacherWeb.com/MA/Hunnewell/34S/plc.com>

All newsletters are posted online

### Mathematics

Our unit in adding and subtracting with large numbers ends next week with an assessment on Tuesday.

The March Monday Morning Math Madness was fantastic. Thank you for spending time letting your children show you what "doing" math feels like in our classroom. We hope you had fun!

*Next Unit: Fractions & Decimals*

### Reading

We have been practicing for the MCAS reading assessment. Students are surprised to notice that the response format matches our Wednesday Prompt assignments and that finding details and supporting proof in a story are all things we often do when we independently read each day in class.

*Next Unit: Seymour Simon Author Study*

Student Activity Books (SABs) are an integral part of the TERC Investigations, Second Edition math curriculum. As you know, students receive an SAB for each unit, providing an opportunity for daily practice and homework, as well as periodic review of work in prior units. These books are also used extensively in class,

### Science

Climate and Topography take concepts from states of matter and the hydrological cycle and allow us to apply our learning to the regions of the United States as we look at how temperature is affected by precipitation, length of day, latitude, and land forms. We also consider how these factors influence the way people live.

*Next Unit: Studying the NE Region*

### Writing

Personal Narrative writing has prepared us well for the MCAS Long Composition. Students are working very hard to apply everything they have learned about writing from Kindergarten to now in one single essay. This can prove to be a very stressful time of year for fourth graders. Please help me as you judge whether your child has done enough homework and needs a break. We are working diligently each

day and it is exhausting. I have lightened up on the homework assignments because of this.

*Next Unit: Fantasy Stories*

### Open Circle

We have circled back to remembering our calming down strategies. Please ask your child to share with you some of the things we can do to calm ourselves down. One of our strategies is getting some fresh air. Now that it is beginning to feel a bit like Spring (knock on wood), please send in an old towel with your child's name marked so we can use it to sit on outside. We are currently planning an Open Circle meeting for the entire fourth grade to discuss recess issues that have come up in each of the classrooms

### MCAS Schedule

**March 31** Long Composition

**April 3** ELA Reading Day 1

**April 6** ELA Reading Day 2

**April 7** Long Comp Make Up

**April 9** ELA Reading Day 3

## A Math Note

documenting thinking and provoking discussions among partners, small groups and the class at large. SABs are regularly reviewed by your child's teacher, although not every page is graded. Sometimes students may be asked to rework problems or

may be encouraged to verbally clarify their thinking. At the end of each unit, key representative pages are pulled and placed in each student's file, along with formal assessments and discussion notes. Student work in SABs is only one of many ways for us to understand and appreciate each student's growth toward mastery of mathematical principles.