

FOURTH GRADE EXPECTATIONS

This is a transition year for the students. They will sharpen and refine the many concepts introduced in the primary grades. The children are expected to assume more independence and responsibility for their own learning. They will develop work habits and study skills that will enable them to do the following:

- *Ask questions and seek help from teachers/peers/parents
- *Listen attentively during instructional and sharing periods
- *Organize self, materials, and notes from school to home and back smoothly
- *Work independently and with cooperative groups effectively and resourcefully

As the year unfolds the fourth grade curriculum becomes more academically demanding and complex. You will notice the increased standards and expectations for your child. We will begin to introduce and emphasize the following:

- *Critical thinking and analysis/problem solving
- *Finding patterns and logic
- *Multi-level questioning and answering
- *Self-evaluation, reflection, and self-monitoring

Math: Our math curriculum is based on the Hawaii State standards for math. We use the Scott Foresman text, as well as other materials to cover these standards. The standards are taught using a variety of methods, including but not limited to; working out problems of the day, journal questions to encourage writing in math, math manipulatives, group work, math games, math centers, speed tests in addition, subtraction, and multiplication to encourage quick recall of facts, and individual guided practice. Fridays are used for assessments, games to review information we are covering, or math centers.

Language Arts: Our language arts period incorporates spelling, vocabulary, reading, writing, and oral communication. We will be using a variety of materials for instruction, including; the Word Wisdom vocabulary workbook, Trophies reading text, a handwriting practice book, and literature based books. Students will engage in whole group, as well as small group reading practice and independent learning experiences. The emphasis in writing

this year will be on the effective use of ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency and conventions/presentations. The students will develop and assess what constitutes “good writing”, as they refine their expository and creative writing skills. In reading students will learn to make connections between their self and characters in a book, make inferences, see the overall theme in different stories, and summarize a story. When reading at home, make sure your child is reading at or above grade level if possible.

Science/Social Studies: Fourth grade is the year we focus on the state of Hawaii for Social Studies. Students will study the formation of the Hawaiian Islands and the development, life, and culture of the ancient Hawaiians. In Science we will be implementing the DASH program, as well as other resources to teach the fourth grade standards. We will plan a number of field trips and many enrichment activities to highlight and reinforce our studies.

If anyone has a job or a specific interest that you think would enhance a part of our curriculum this year, please contact Ms. Garcia, Mrs. Pao, or Mrs. Gomes and maybe we can arrange a special presentation with the students.

Mahalo for you Support!