

# Classroom News

September 5, 2021

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## Nuts and Bolts

- Welcome back everyone! It's great to see familiar faces and a few we haven't seen in over a year! We've had a great start to the school year! Although we're still wearing masks indoors, this year we're able to be on the playground without them and we aren't working behind plexiglass when we're inside. We are still trying to get outside for academics such as reading and writing when we can.
- This year our class has 18 students. We have 6 fourth graders and 12 third graders. Mr. Dubois and I share students for math. The third graders will be working with him and I will take his 4th graders at that time.
- Reminder: A note went home on Friday asking for 4-6 pictures for our "all about us" class book. We'd like to have them by September 10th if possible.
- Book orders are due on Friday, September 10th.
- You can find copies of this and future Newsletters on our class blog. To access them and other classroom information, go to the Smilie website at [smilie.mmuusd.org](http://smilie.mmuusd.org) and click on "classrooms." Once on the blog, you can sign up to receive notices whenever something is posted. Since the Newsletters will be posted online, you may decide that you don't need a paper copy. I'll continue to send hard copies home unless I hear otherwise.
- Once you're on the blog you will find information about the class schedule, spelling lists, math notes, a calendar of upcoming events, newsletters, pictures and more. Check it out!
- Please get in touch with me if you have any questions or concerns about things going on in the classroom or things I need to be aware of at home. I can be reached at [steven.menz@mmuusd.org](mailto:steven.menz@mmuusd.org) or you can call the school directly.

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## 4th Grade Math

*Parent Letters and Activities To Try At Home for ALL units can be found on the class blog under the "Math" heading. Click on the unit you want to see under "4th Grade Math."*


We began the year with Investigations III Unit 1 called **Arrays, Factors and Multiplicative Comparison**. The content focus for this unit was a review from 3rd grade on representing multiplication with arrays and finding factors of multiples. Students are becoming familiar with the terms: *factors, multiples, arrays, products, area, prime and composite*.

## 3rd Grade Math (Mr. Dubois)

In **3rd Grade Math** students brainstormed a list of things that come in groups. Then they learned how things that come in equal groups can be represented by repeated addition or multiplication. While students learn about using equal groups in second grade, the link to multiplication is new learning in third grade. Third graders have also been playing a couple of games that reinforce single and multi-digit computation through decomposition.

## ELA (English / Language Arts)

**Reading:** Students have spent the past few days getting familiar with our classroom library. We have discussed how to choose "just right" books and are practicing doing that. We each chose a fiction and a nonfiction book and are working to increase the time we spend reading independently. Students we're also introduced to their reading journals where they created a page "about themselves" and another page about "themselves as a reader." I have started reading with individual students informally just to get a sense of where they are. Our first official reading unit will start the week of September 13th.



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**Writing:** We spent last week creating lists based on stories that were read in class. Lists included, things I'm good at, things I want to be good at, times I was frustrated, times I was proud, Times I was persistent, special moments, people, places and worries. These lists will become the "seeds" for some of our narrative writing during the school year. Next week we'll be using our writer's notebooks to "free write" and just practice getting our thoughts on paper. We'll start our first official writing unit in a couple of weeks.

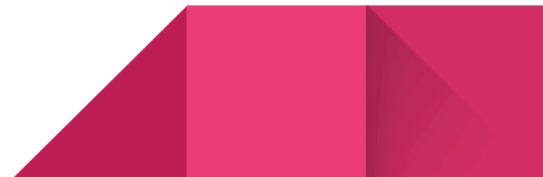
## Spelling

-I am currently working to place students into spelling groups. We'll start spelling and word study lessons the week of September 13th. At that time, students can expect a weekly spelling and word study/grammar homework packet as well as weekly spelling assessments.

## Theme

We'll be spending several weeks getting to know each other as well as the classroom routines and expectations. Students spent last week playing cooperative games, and created a class ceiling tile which cemented their commitment to; being kind and respectful to ourselves and each other, having empathy for others, staying safe in and out of the school and doing our best work. Students used their handprints on our tile to demonstrate their commitment to these tenants. We also joined Mr. Dubois' class in an outdoor sing along which I hope can become a regular event and part of our classroom communities.

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**Questions? Concerns?  
Let me know!**

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Class Blog:

<http://1gr8class.blogspot.com/>

**Book Order Code: LWC9B**

