

August 1, 2019

Dear Students,

Welcome to fourth grade! I am very excited to have you in my class this year. I can't wait to get started in the fall, and I hope you are just as excited as I am! I know this year will be terrific!

I hope that your summer has been wonderful! My summer has been great so far! I have been spending a lot of time at the beach, reading and enjoying the sun. Just recently, my family and I spent some time on Cape Cod, in Eastham with my mom, my brother and sister, and my cousins. We had a fabulous time! We swam in the ocean at First Encounter Beach. This is the beach where the Pilgrims had their first encounter with the Native Americans in Massachusetts. We also swam at Coast Guard Beach, and saw many seals. I guess we just missed seeing the sharks! We love seeing the different beaches on the Cape, and exploring the beautiful shore.

Next week, my family and I will be camping in Maine. I have my fingers crossed for sunny weather, because camping is mostly outside! My family enjoys camping because we can go water skiing and tubing, and we can relax on the beach and read. The week before school starts, we will be heading to Walt Disney World to celebrate my daughter's birthday. My two children, Sam and Grace, are so very excited for this vacation!

One thing I really love about summer is that it is a great time to relax and enjoy a good book. I read many books at the beach. I really enjoy mysteries and fantasies most of all. This summer I spent a lot of time reading. Right now, I am reading The Bridge Home by Padma Venkatraman. It is a book I may be recommending to you this year!

I hope that you have been working on the fourth grade summer reading list and math activities. I can't wait until September, when we will celebrate everyone's reading this summer with a storytelling show!

Some time in September, we will be working on our first science project. For this project, you will need **a large plastic jar**. It should be at least **12 inches tall**, be clear plastic, and have a wide mouth (big enough to put your hands in). If it has a lid, that will be helpful, however if it doesn't, that is fine. I can answer any questions about this when we return to school.

I hope that you enjoy the rest of your summer. I am looking forward to a great year!



Mrs. Merten