**Parent Tips**

* Reading **Read and Research!** A big part of our lives revolves around using technology to research and locate accurate information. Find a common interest between you and your child. Use common interests as an opportunity to learn more about the topic and how to research. You and your child can compile information you find into a mini informational book! Challenge your child by asking them to add text features to their book, such as subtitles, pictures, and captions.

* Writing **Challenge your child!** Have your child write an opinion piece on something they enjoy or believe in. Challenge your child by supporting the opposing opinion. For example, if your child writes an opinion piece on PB&J being the best sandwich, tell them you think a turkey & ham sandwich is best. Have your child best argue his or her point in words or writing to practice expressing opinions.

* Math **Real Life Math!**  Create math story problems out of your everyday life. If you are at the store, ask your child to determine how much your cost will be or how much change you will receive.

**Notes on Word Problem Strategy: SOLVE**

“SOLVE” is a strategy used to solve word problems. Each letter in SOLVE represents one of the 5 steps in solving a word problem:

**Study the problem**

**Organize the facts**

**Line up a plan**

**Verify your plan with action**

**Examine the results**

“*S” stands for Study The Problem. When you study the problem you need to:*

1.Highlight or underline the question.

2.Answer the question, “What is the problem asking me to find?”

*“O” stands for Organize The Facts. When you organized the facts you need to:*

1.Identify each fact

2.Eliminate unnecessary facts (By putting a line through it)

3.List all necessary facts

“L*” stands for Line Up a Plan. When you line up a plan you need to:*

1.Choose and operation (Add, Subtract, Multiply or Divide)

2.Tell in words how you are going to solve the problem

“*V” stands for Verify Your Plan With Action. When you verify your plan with action, you need*

*to:*

1.Estimate your answer

2.Carry out your plan

*“E” stands for Examine The Results. When you examine the results you need to ask yourself:*

1.Does your answer make sense? (Check what the problem was asking you to find)

2.Is your answer reasonable?(Check you estimate)

3.Is your answer accurate? (Check your work)

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**Fourth Grade**

**News!**

## September 2015

**Literacy:**

##### In Reading, we are working on determining the theme of a text and citing textual evidence to support our ideas. Students are also learning how to identify a summarizing statement and write clear and concise summaries of text they read. Students are working on personal narratives in writing. Students are encouraged to use transition words in their writing to help manage the sequence of events. Please remember, students are to read 30 minutes each night and record this in their reading log for the week. Students have a vocabulary assignment each night and a weekly comprehension passage to complete.

##### **Reminders:**

* Students will complete a behavior reflection every Wednesday for the prior week. This reflection will be sent home in Thursday folders. It is required that this form is signed by a parent or guardian and returned the following school day, as it will be a tool to communicate your child’s behavior performance.
* Each student is required to complete homework in the assigned subject areas each night. This year, your child will receive a weekly calendar of their homework assignments. Homework is to be completed as assigned and returned to school the following school day. We will be in constant communication with parents and guardians if your child is not completing and/or returning assigned homework.
* Due to a late lunch schedule, students are allowed to bring a healthy snack to eat during class.
* Please print, sign, and return all release forms and blue cards. The paperwork needs to be turned into your student’s homeroom teacher as soon as possible.

**\*\*Next week, your child will be participating in a team-building activity with their classmates. Please send in a t-shirt for your child to tie-dye. Please bring in the t-shirt by September 9th. Thank you ☺**

Hello Parents!

Welcome to the fourth grade at Berewick Elementary! We are all very excited to work with you to ensure that you and your child have a successful year. Our fourth grade theme this year is, “The Fantastic Fourth,” and our motto is, “May the fourth be with you.” The fourth grade team is here to support your child to ensure they are successful scholars in fourth grade. The relationship that we form with you, the parents and guardians, is essential to their success. Please reach out to any team member with any questions or concerns.

**The Fantastic Fourth Team**

**Ms. Erin Roberts, Literacy & Social Studies**

I am a Berewick original! I received a BA in Modern Languages from Winthrop University, a MAT from Queens University and also completed my AIG certification at Queens. I enjoy creative activities and spending time with my three dogs.

**Ms. Ashlyn Lake, Math & Science**

It is my pleasure to welcome you and your child to the fourth grade and to my class. This is my fifth year at Berewick Elementary, and I love the Bobcat family and Berewick Community! I am originally from Chapin, South Carolina and graduated from Winthrop University. I am looking forward to working with and getting to know you and your child. By working together, we can ensure that your child will have a very successful year!

**Ms. Susan Echols, Literacy & Social Studies**

This is my 12th year of teaching. I earned my teaching degree from Mercer University in Atlanta. I have my National Board Certification in reading. I moved to the Charlotte area when I was 12. I have twin girls named Lauren and Hannah, who are freshmen at Samford University and studying nursing. I love reading, traveling, shopping, and of course, cats!

**Ms. Brooke Sparks, Math & Science**

I am so excited to return to Berewick to continue my passion of teaching and working with children! I believe in Berewick’s mission and working with your child so they can become successful fourth graders and lifelong scholars. I received a BA from Campbell University in Business Administration and a BA from Meredith College in Art and Design. Last fall, I received a MAT from UNC-Charlotte. Outside of the classroom, I enjoy traveling, crafts, and spending time with my husband James, 10-month old son Finn, and Italian Greyhound, Chase.

**Subjects at-a-Glance**

**Math:**

Throughout the year, we will utilize a problem-solving model called S.O.L.V.E., which will be introduced and reviewed at the beginning of the year. We will use this model to solve a variety of multi-step word problems. We will send home a handy reference sheet for students to use at home when given S.O.L.V.E. problems for homework. Our first unit, Geometry, will begin on September 8th.

A homework sheet will be sent home weekly. This is designed to help you and your child organize the week. Homework will not be new information but instead practice of objectives taught at least a week or two prior to the date. We believe this gives children the opportunity to feel comfortable with the work before attempting to do it independently at home. We will only provide one copy per week. Encourage your child to have a safe place to keep this assignment.

Important Dates for September 2015

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | | Sat |
|  |  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4  Summer projects due! | | 5 |
| 6 | 7  Labor Day – No School | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17  Back to School Night! | 18 | | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23  Teacher Work-day | 24 | | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |  |  | |  |

**Fourth Grade**

**News!**

## September 2015