



PARENT NEWSLETTER

APRIL 16, 2009

¡Hola a todos! We have started work on our Ancient Civilizations Unit, and are currently working on a timeline of the various Chinese dynasties. We will take our next math test this Friday (tomorrow), on our geometry unit. We also will be starting our science unit on the solar system this week, studying each planet and the various parts of our solar system.

As I mentioned in the email I sent on Monday, there has been a change to the MCA testing dates. Students will take the **READING tests on April 22nd and 23rd**. They will take the **MATH tests on April 27th and 28th**. In the Thursday folders, I have included several sheets with helpful information regarding the tests. There is a list of important vocabulary for students to practice and review at home (for math and reading). Please use this to quiz your child during the days prior to the test, to make sure they remember these concepts. Students could also use the list and visit the following website, to practice many of these skills in fun, interactive games online:

http://www.tangischools.org/schools/les/3rd_grade_skills.htm

I also included some tips for preparing students, as well as information about the test itself, from the MN Department of Education. You can also visit their website for more information:

http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Accountability_Programs/Assessment_and_Testing/Assessments/MCA/index.html

As I also mentioned in the Monday email, we have a new homework system, in which students receive one homework packet for the whole week. This will be handed out on Mondays, and will be due the following Monday. They will also need to complete their “Lenguaje” sheet using a SPANISH book for Monday. This will alter our spelling test days, as well, which will now both (Spanish and English) be held on Mondays. So just remember: **MONDAYS!** Get new homework, turn in homework (including “Lenguaje”), and take spelling tests. Students also have their April Book Report to complete by the end of the month. They will need to use an English chapter book and choose one option from the list of book report ideas to complete.

Reminders:

MCA testing: **Reading** – April 22nd and 23rd; **Math** – April 27th and 28th. Please practice the list of vocabulary with your child before the tests.

Remember to sign up for ISLA summer camp!

Upcoming Events:

April 21: McDonald’s Night

April 22-23: MCA Reading tests

April 27-28: MCA Math tests

May 14: Spring Music Program at 7:00pm