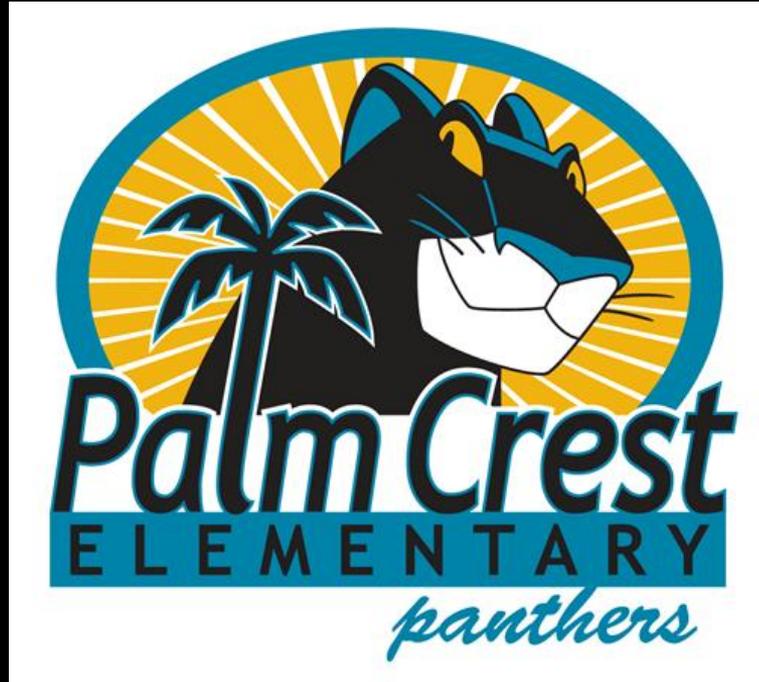


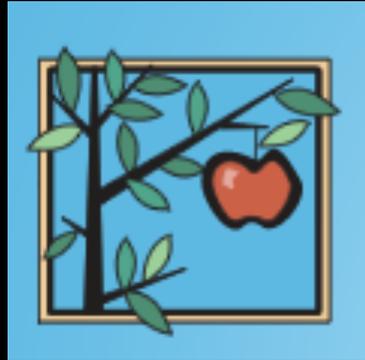
Welcome to Fourth Grade!



PCR Room 32,
Mrs. Beyer and
Mrs. Louk's Class

And now...a presentation from the LCFEF.

<http://lcfef.org/video>



Meet our Room Representatives!

Kelly Davis

kelly@casadedavis.com

Terrie Byrnes

terriecollier@aol.com

Class Expectations

Be safe.

Be responsible.

Be respectful.

Always try your best.

Have fun learning.

Absences/Tardies

- **If your child will miss a school day, please call the absence hotline. We will make a list of missed classwork and homework that can be completed over the next day.**
- **We open the doors at 8:05am. Students are expected to be in the room by the 8:10am bell. If they are tardy, they must sign in late. Every instructional minute is precious...please ensure that your child is on time.**
- **If your child needs to leave early for an appointment, please let us know ahead of time so we can write down assignments and have materials ready. Sign your child out at the front office, and the staff will call down to the room for us to send your child up.**

Party Policies

We will have only two planned parties during the school year...the Winter Holiday Party and the End-of-the-Year Party.

We will not celebrate birthdays during class time. However, you may consider marking your child's big occasion by sending in non-food related items to share with classmates. You could also make a donation to the classroom in your child's name (i.e. library book, board game, etc.)

Daily Schedule

8:10-8:30	Morning Business
8:30-9:55	Language Arts
9:55-10:15	Recess
10:15-11:00	Writer's Workshop
11:00-12:05	Math
12:05-12:50	Lunch
12:50-1:10	Silent Sustained Reading/Accelerated Reader/Cursive
1:10-2:10	Science/Social Studies
2:10-2:20	Closing/Homework
2:20-2:50	PE

Art: Mondays from 10:30-11:30, every other week

Music: Mondays from 12:55-1:50, every other week

Computer Lab: Tuesdays from 8:30-9:30

Library: Wednesdays from 9:15-9:45, every other week

Activities and Field Trips

Salt & Flour Maps

Wednesday, September 23rd

Pumpkin Math

Friday, October 30th

Winter Party

Thursday, December 17th

Brig Pilgrim Overnight

Date TBD, January/February

Disney Concert Hall

Wednesday, January 20th

CA History Comes to Life

Thursday, March 31st

Possible field trip to local mission

Date TBD, May

End of Year Party

Wednesday, May 25th

Core Literature Books

This year, the Fourth Graders will be reading the following Core Literature Books:

- Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell
- Two Years Before the Mast (abridged version, 92 pages) by Richard Henry Dana
- By the Great Horn Spoon! by Sid Fleischman
- Trumpet of the Swan by E.B. White

We do have a very limited supply of extra copies in the classroom, but students are able to interact more meaningfully with the text if they have their own copy in which they can take notes or mark key understandings. Consider borrowing books from an older sibling, cousin, or friend that may still have a copy.

If purchasing new books, you may find difficulty locating the abridged version of Two Years Before the Mast. Check Flintridge Bookstore or online for used copies.

Please store your four books at home. I will give you notice when it is time to send each one in.

Overnight Field Trip

- Students will attend the “Before the Mast” overnight field trip in Dana Point in January or February.
- The program will help students experience the life of a sailor, tying into Two Years Before the Mast. They will be immersed in early California history as they sign aboard as greenhands for a “voyage” from Boston to Alta California in the 1830s. Students will gain skills in cooperative learning, teamwork, and communication as they hoist cargo, row long-boats, raise sails. stand night watch, swab the decks, and sing chanteys.
- Students and chaperones will sleep aboard the brig.
- We need 8 chaperones...4 male and 4 female...which will be chosen by lottery.
- I request that each family participate in the “Letters of the Sailors” activity. Each family will write a secret letter that will be delivered to your child during the evening “Dog Watch” meeting. See the handout for suggestions of topics to include in your letter. I will be sending out deadlines for the letters as the field trip approaches.

Communication

- ***Email*** mbeyer@lcsd.net
- **Class website** www.pcr32.weebly.com
- **Agendas**
- **Thursday folders**
- **Conference Week, October 13-16**

Homework

- How's it going so far?
- We'll aim for Monday through Thursday nights, with occasional weekend assignments.
- Every night, including weekends, will include 30 minutes of reading, multiplication/division facts practice, and typing practice.
- Students will typically have one page from their Math practice books, one page from their Language Arts practice books, and work from Science and Social Studies as needed.
- As we become more proficient using Google Apps, some homework assignments may be shifted to an online format. Let me know if you do not have Internet access.
- Students write assignments in their agendas daily, but I have a backup available on the homework blog at www.pcr32.weebly.com.
- Visit the websites under the Classroom Links page to find ideas for supplementing homework assignments.

Report Cards

- **Students will receive report cards that are now aligned to the Common Core State Standards.**
- **Students will receive A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, or D+ in the Common Core areas of reading, writing, language, and math. I will use the same marks for Social Science and Science.**
- **Students will receive Outstanding, Satisfactory, or Needs Improvement in the areas of speaking and listening, citizenship, work habits, and special classes.**

Grading

Language

Tests/Projects	50%
Classwork	30%
Spelling Tests	10%
Homework	10%

Reading

Tests/Projects	45%
Classwork	30%
Accelerated Reader	15%
Homework	10%

Writing

Final Drafts	70%
Writer's Notebook	30%

Math

Tests/Projects	50%
Classwork	40%
Homework	10%

Social Studies

Tests/Projects	50%
Classwork	40%
Homework	10%

Science

Tests/Projects	50%
Classwork	40%
Homework	10%

A Common Core Refresher...

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS



ENGLISH
LANGUAGE ARTS



MATHEMATICS



Three-Minute Video Explaining the Common
Core State Standards

<https://vimeo.com/51933492>

The Shifts in ELA/Literacy

- **Building knowledge** through content-rich **nonfiction**
- Reading, writing and speaking grounded in **evidence from text**, both literary and informational
- Regular practice with **complex text** and its **academic language**

How can you help your child in literacy?

- **Ask your child specific questions about what they read.**
- **Encourage children to read, then write and speak about, nonfiction text such as newspapers, magazines, and biographies.**
- **Encourage children to research topics of interest and read series that relate to a central topic.**
- **Have your child follow step by step instructions or a set of directions in order to accomplish a task, such as building a sandcastle or operating a game.**

adapted from www.achievethecore.org

The Shifts in Mathematics

- **Focus:** Focus strongly where the standards focus
- **Coherence:** Think across grades, and link to major topics
- **Rigor:** In major topics, pursue conceptual understanding, procedural skill and fluency, and application with equal intensity

adapted from www.achievethecore.org

How can you help your child in math?

- **Help children practice their addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts.**
- **Encourage children not to give up while solving problems, to build stamina and develop their critical thinking skills. Don't give them the answers - ask them to think of different ways they can solve problems.**
- **Have children illustrate the math they were thinking in their head and discuss it out loud.**
- **Have children apply their math knowledge to a real-world scenario at home, such as doubling a recipe or calculating the area of a room.**

adapted from www.achievethecore.org

Math Help at Home

- **Emphasis now is WHY and not just HOW**
- **Multiple ways to solve problems**
- **Problem solving with real-world math**

Pay bills

Estimate the cost of the groceries in your cart

Determine how much food to buy or make for a party

Double a recipe or cut a recipe in half

Figure the cost of lunch at a restaurant

Calculate the cost of school lunch for the week or month

Determine how long your child will need to save his allowance in order to buy a particular item

Determine the number of miles driven in X hours

Figure the cost of X number of minutes of cell phone use if you pay X cents/minutes

Determine how many gallons of gas you can buy with X dollars

Determine how many chocolate chips are needed if X number of cookies each has 3 chocolate chips

CCSS at PCR

- This is the third year of Common Core implementation.
- The grade level teams have designed CCSS aligned pacing guides and assessments, which will be used for the first time this year.
- In the absence of standardized test scores, we are using teacher-designed assessments to measure student growth. I will communicate your child's progress on each quarterly benchmark assessment and on the end-of-the-year assessment to keep you informed on his/her progress.
- All 3-6 grad students will take the CAASPP (California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress) in spring 2016 <http://www.caaspp.org/>.
- Because this is the first time for students to take the complete SBAC, we anticipate the test scores to be lower than usual. However, as they transition to the CCSS along with the teachers, they will become more proficient on the new standards and perform better on the assessment.

More CCSS at PCR

- Teachers will be using supplemental materials alongside our existing textbooks to teach CCSS. LCUSD will adopt new CCSS-aligned textbooks within the next two years.
- I have learned much about incorporating the CCSS into instruction through grade-level meetings, school-wide trainings, and professional development opportunities. I still have much to learn and look forward to acquiring new strategies and methods for my teaching toolbox.
- Please visit the LCUSD, PCR, and Room 32 websites to find more resources to learn about CCSS. Let me know if you have any questions throughout the year.

Thanks for coming and supporting your child's education!

If you have a spare minute, sign up to volunteer for activities and field trips on the sign up forms, and sign up for your conference time online at <http://www.mbcurl.me/ToBeDetermined>.



QR CODE TO BE UPDATED