

## **September is National School Success Month!**

The students in our 4<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms have already met with success! They are following our team rules, completing assignments and returning homework! Each day our daily assignments are listed in our planners. Parents are encouraged to check the **planner** on a nightly basis, initial the date, and discuss the activities. You will notice that both classes are following the same lessons in math, reading stories, spelling lists, and state research.

The **Science classes** are beginning a study of Illinois prairies. They will look at plants that covered our area in the past. Can you picture how our land looked at that time as it was filled with Big Blue Stem, Side Oats, and Purple Cone Flowers? The activity will include a walking fieldtrip to a local town prairie garden. Exact date and details will be announced soon.

Mondays bring the challenge of adventure to our **Social Studies classes** as we research and relive the famous journey of Lewis and Clark. Forty brave explorers made a two year trip and recorded their experiences in journals. We will follow their journey week by week throughout the entire school year. It will be a memorable trip up the Missouri River!

A friendly reminder to parents: Your child may have homework in Social Studies on Tuesdays and Science on Wednesdays.

September brings the beginning of “**NO-Late**” **coupons**. If a 4<sup>th</sup> grader completes an entire month without a late paper in any subject, they will earn a coupon that is good for a free assignment! The coupon can be used for a 100% score on another assignment. The students often like to “save” these coupons just in case a paper is forgotten at home!

We will celebrate a prairie folk hero – **Johnny Appleseed** on **Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup>**. We will research his life and explore some of the tales that have been shared by generations of storytellers. Of course, how could we celebrate his birthday without apples? The students will be encouraged to bring in apple treats – baked or purchased. More details will be coming.

The **Elementary Open House** will be held on Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Plan to explore your child’s room and share their experiences. The “official” parent conference sign-up sheet will be posted that evening. So come prepared to pick the November time that fits your schedule!

**An important note:** Due to a family wedding in Washington D.C., Mrs. Wenzel will be at the airport waiting to board a plane during our open house! So, she would like to invite all her parents to visit the night before. On **Wednesday, September 29<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 – 6:30, you can stop by!** A note will be sent home as a reminder.

Parents, please feel free to email or write in the planner if you have any questions.

**Mrs. Jo Wenzel      Mrs. Kathy Hillmer**