

Dear Incoming Fourth Grade Families,

In order to best prepare your child for the 2018-2019 school year, I have gathered summer reading, writing, and math activities to reinforce specific skills that your child has worked with during their third grade year. I hope that the students find these activities fun while keeping those skills sharp and ready for fourth grade. I think they will enjoy the book selections for this summer and look forward to sharing book discussions when we head back to the classroom in August.

This year, each child is asked to read two required books. The first selection, *Tales of Despereaux*, comes from a familiar author for them, Kate DiCamillo; we will be reading another selection from Ms. DiCamillo later in the year and will focus on her for our author studies as we work more with skills, such as author's purpose. The activities related to our summer book are intended to expand upon their comprehension of the story. We will be spending time with this book in the early weeks as we introduce new comprehension skills. This book was also selected as it will be used when we read our first novel of the year, *Poppy*. It will allow us to make connections with theme, setting, and characters, as well as work with paired text skills.

This selection will also be the basis for the summer writing activity and a STEMie project we will introduce and complete as we return to school and learn more about the Engineering Design Process. Our second summer read will help prepare us to put on our engineering hats on for a Despereaux Challenge!

Our second selection for the summer is, *Who Were the Wright Brothers?*, from the popular Who Was...? book series. The children will be asked to complete a graphic organizer for this biography. The graphic organizer will be used to learn more about the structure and text features of a biography. This all ties into our preparation for Invention Convention. We will be exploring the biographies of a number of inventors and this will be an exciting bridge as they prepare to take the role of inventor later in the year! In the spirit of inventing and the story of the Wright Brothers, the children will be asked to plan, but not execute a STEMie project. I am asking that they only complete certain phases of the Engineering Design Process, as the remaining steps will be completed in class in order to prepare them for their work for Invention Convention.

In addition to our two reading selections, I encourage your child to make other selections throughout the summer with a goal of reading at least 30 minutes a day. They can refer to the suggested reading list for fourth grade, as well as visit [www.arbookfind.com](http://www.arbookfind.com) to make selections for additional summer reading.

Journaling, or scrapbooking (pictures, but be sure to include captions!) is another great way to use their writing and communication skills. Daily accounts of their days, or even a daily current event summary of something that peaked their interest is a great way to work on communicating through their writing. We love Google Slides in fourth grade! I find that this helps them develop many skills when it comes to communicating and presenting their ideas, and sharing information with others. You might even consider having them keep a digital scrapbook or journal in Google Slides.

Incoming fourth graders should have a mastery of their multiplication facts (1-12). I highly recommend while they master each set of facts, they continue to practice multiplication, but also move onto division. I teach them, "If you know one you know four," when learning their facts, so they already have the connection of multiplication and division and how they work together. In fourth grade we are required to show and check our work. As they work on division, have them use multiplication to check their answer (this is a good foundation when we move into long division). Addition and Subtraction are also critical to practice as we work with multi-digit computations, including regrouping; using fingers and other "helps" to add and subtract will hinder speed and accuracy.

I am providing a math packet that is part of our summer work. It focuses on skill practice as well as applying those skills in problem solving. Here's how we do things in fourth grade math. We try a problem once, twice, three times; if we can't get it we move on and comeback to it later. If we are still struggling with it, we highlight

the problem and jot down what we are having difficulty with; is it the way the question is worded or presented, is it the computational portion, the more specific you can be the quicker we can work together to figure it out!

Do your best with the packet! We will be reviewing it and using it as our first map on our math journey; let's see where it takes us!

Here are several websites that provide great practice and will be used during the school year as well. I highly recommend using one of these for both multiplication/division and addition/subtraction; the more ways we practice the more fluent we become in our facts and computation work!

[http://www.hbschool.com/activity/thats\\_a\\_fact/english\\_K\\_3.html](http://www.hbschool.com/activity/thats_a_fact/english_K_3.html)

<https://www.khanacademy.org/> I am a big fan of this site as I feel that the audio and visual review of concepts delivered step-by-step is invaluable!

[www.wildmath.com](http://www.wildmath.com)

[www.mathisfun.com](http://www.mathisfun.com)

Apps: Math Drills and Splash Math (Grades 3/4)

[www.aplusmath.com](http://www.aplusmath.com) Go under "Flashcards" or "Game Room" on the left side of the screen. They can practice adding, subtracting and multiplying. Very important to know the addition, subtraction and multiplication facts from memorization or within a couple seconds.

[www.mathisfun.com](http://www.mathisfun.com) Select numbers then Math Trainer for adding, subtracting and multiplication. Or at the home screen select games and pick a game to play.

[www.illuminations.nctm.org](http://www.illuminations.nctm.org) Select activities then select grade level. Click on Search.

[www.aaamath.com](http://www.aaamath.com) At the top pick "Third" or "Fourth" for a challenge. Choose any of the activities like multiplication then select "play" option toward the top of the screen. 20 Questions and Countdown games are good ones. [www.funbrain.com](http://www.funbrain.com) Lots of fun games to choose from.

In addition to the fact practice, there are other skills and concepts we should be practicing over the summer. The math practice includes application of skills as well. Let them work at their own pace, but a little each day brings more benefit than completing everything at once. If your child is struggling with a concept, please note that in their packet, right on the question, as this is helpful information for me as we begin our math journey together!

I am very excited about the upcoming school year, and thank you in advance for all you do to encourage and support your child in becoming a lifelong learner. I hope you have a happy, relaxing, and safe summer! I hope to see many of you in July at our S.O.S. program!

Kind Regards,

Mrs. Mary Jo Bokuniewicz (Mrs. B)  
bokuniewicz@stroseschool.com

## Summer Reading Selection—Book #1

Every incoming fourth grader is *required* to read this book.

*Tales of Despereaux* by Kate DiCamillo

### Reading Activities:

1. Being able to summarize is an important skill. Summaries of chapters and stories are not detailed retellings, but rather giving your audience the highlights of the main idea and key details. *The Tales of Despereaux* is divided up differently than many other books. You will see that it is divided into FOUR BOOKS (each containing its own chapters). For each book you will use the graphic organizers, in this packet, to create a brief summary about each book, as well as predict what you think will happen in the next book. Do this as you read each book, not at the end of the last chapter of the book itself; this will make your summaries more accurate and help you better understand the story as you read.
2. Please read the book carefully and be ready for class discussions and an assessment on this book when school begins. As you read, please make notes in the margins or in post-its you attach to pages, or use highlighter. What should you make notes about or highlight? Interesting and challenging vocabulary words and main ideas in chapters, as well as details you find interesting.
3. Characters are an important part of a story; and getting to know them is a key piece to understanding the story! There are many characters in the story and I am sure you will find at least one that you will identify with, who you say, that could be me! Our story makes for a wonderful Reader's Theater Adventure to begin practicing our speaking and presentation skills for the year. In two paragraphs I would like you to tell me what character you would like to be and why. Convince me as if I were a Broadway Casting Director! What makes you perfect for that character part, compare your character traits with the character you would like to be; how are you alike, give examples.
4. Stories can have many themes and lessons within their pages. *The Tales of Despereaux* have many, and a number of these we will explore in a compare and contrast when we read our first class novel together, *Poppy*. For this summer read I want you to pick one of the following three themes that are a part of *The Tales of Despereaux*, and write 2 paragraphs about what the theme means to you and how it is portrayed in the story; cite examples from the story of a character(s) displaying this theme through their actions and words. Three themes: Compassion/Forgiveness; Loyalty; Courage (Pick one to write about).

## Summer Reading Selection—Book #2

Every incoming fourth grader is *required* to read this book.

*Who Were the Wright Brothers* by James Buckley

### **Who Were the Wright Brothers?--Biographical Sketch**

Name:	Name:
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Birth Date:	Birth Date:
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Birth Place:	Birth Place:
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How are the brothers alike?

How are the brothers different?

Tell one thing about the brothers that amazes you:

What are some adjectives you would use to describe the brothers?

What significant things do people remember about the brothers?

A lesson I learned from reading about the Wright Brothers:

## **STEMie Project--The Wright Flight**

Paper airplanes aren't just for fun! They can help us learn amazing things and give us great opportunities to work with our problem solving skills. Now simple paper airplanes is where this STEMie project begins, but it is not where it ends. Meet me on Flight 4B in August and see where this adventure will lead!

As you work on this part of the STEMie project this summer, please keep in mind... The Wright Brothers had 4 attempts at getting their first plane to fly. Trial and error, it's how we learn and how most inventions begin!

There are two pages for the STEMie work; however, if our young inventor needs extra space, please have them use additional sheets of paper and be sure they write their name on each additional piece!

The Wright Flight—Part 1(Complete this summer)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Create a paper airplane. DO NOT FLY IT YET! Remember not all paper is the same, just as not all paper airplanes are created equal; there are many styles and variations!

Draw a picture of your paper airplane below. List the supplies you used:

Now you will take 2 test flights for your airplane. Measure the distance your plane flew.

Flight 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Flight 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Often when inventors make a new machine, they need to make some revisions or changes to make it better. Please make some changes to your airplane and list what changes you made below:

Draw a picture of your revised airplane below. List the supplies you used:

Now you will take 2 more test flights. Measure the distance your plane flew.

Flight 3: \_\_\_\_\_ Flight 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you think the changes you made helped? Why?

## The Wright Flight—Part 2 (COMPLETE ONLY THE ASK and IMAGINE STEPS)

Now that you have had an opportunity to “invent” your own paper flying machine; you are ready for more of a challenge. When we return to school, we will use this challenge to learn more about inventing and the Engineering Design Process. We will be using the Engineering Design Process for Invention Convention. Here is what it looks like:



If we look through the history of airplanes, we know that we have come a long way from the time of the Wright Brothers. Airplanes have many uses and purposes in today’s world. Your challenge will be to make a paper airplane that can carry a cargo and glide more than ten feet (not be hurled, but actually glide) The cargo will be money-coins. Your goal is to fly the most money! You will only complete the ASK and IMAGINE phase. I will be teaching more about the other phases as we work through this in the first weeks of school!

First, we start with the ASK step...

What is the problem and your goal?

Next, let’s focus on the IMAGINE step...

Brainstorm!!!! What will your plane look like, what materials might you use, what are things you know about the cargo and paper airplanes that might help you design your plane? (use additional paper if needed, brainstorming is an exciting step, let your ideas out!!)