



Dear Parents,  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**Science Fair** is a hot topic in 4th grade this month. I know, I know...this can be a trying time. I did it for seven years with my daughters (one went to the International Science Fair in high school), and I vividly remember the entire household being dedicated to these projects. I have sympathy, but I can tell you it pays off. The lessons in communication, self-assurance, reasoning, problem solving, and application of Science, Mathematics, and English cannot be experienced in a better way.

**Books on project ideas** are available to be checked out by the library door. Feel free to drop in any time and browse. If there is a particular piece of equipment you need to borrow from school, just ask and I'll see what I can do to get it for you. I always advise the students to try to stick to something they are familiar with. Salt changing the freezing point of water, water content in snowfall, density of an object in sink and float, energy efficient light bulbs, consumer product testing...I could go on and on. This **does** have to involve an **experiment**, but it does not have to be complicated!

I hope you are continuing to work on those **multiplication and division facts**. A fourth grade student should be able to give an answer to any fact before you can count to three. Playing War with flash cards, trying to beat a calculator that someone else is operating, just picking the hardest cards out to concentrate on, any kind of practice will help.

Our next creative writing project in **English** will be to write a circle story like those written by the author Laura Numeroff. For example: If You Give a Pig a Pancake or If You Give a Mouse a Cookie

Sincerely,

Mrs. Michele Durbahn