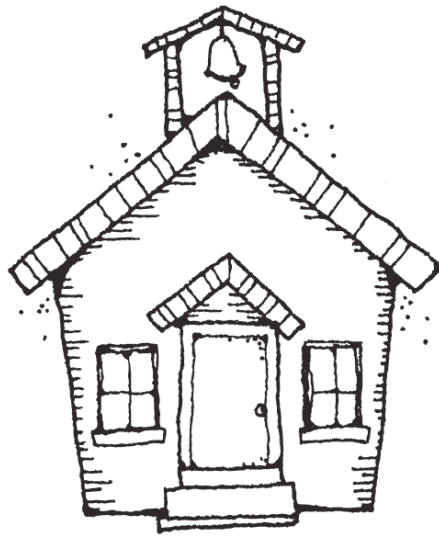


4R Open House

Gladwyne Elementary
September, 2011



Laura Reilly
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Typical Daily Schedule

- Morning Meeting
- Math
- Special(s)
- Snack
- Social Studies/Science
- Recess & Lunch – 12:35 – 1:25
- Copy Homework (Mondays only)
- Grammar & Usage/Writing
- Reading
- Silent Reading
- Clean Up/Read Aloud/Dismissal

Classroom Rules and Procedures

In 4R, we strive to be the best citizens we can be - in our classroom, school, home, and community. We work hard to show respect and kindness towards others, as well as ourselves. The members of 4R have decided upon the classroom rules:

1. Respect yourself.
2. Respect each other.
3. Respect the environment.

Snack & Birthday Celebrations

We have snack every morning. Please send your child to school with a small, healthy snack and a drink.

According to the District Nutrition Policy: "Classroom parties, while not prohibiting the traditional cupcake, must offer additional healthy foods alongside the less nutritious option." Please email me ahead of time with your snack of choice. Please send something that is easy to distribute for 25 students, and does not contain nuts. Napkins and plates are appreciated!

Marble Jar

The class may receive marbles for a number of things (walking quietly in the halls, receiving a compliment from someone, staying on task, etc.) When the jar is full, the class decides on a reward (party, read-in, pajama day, etc.).



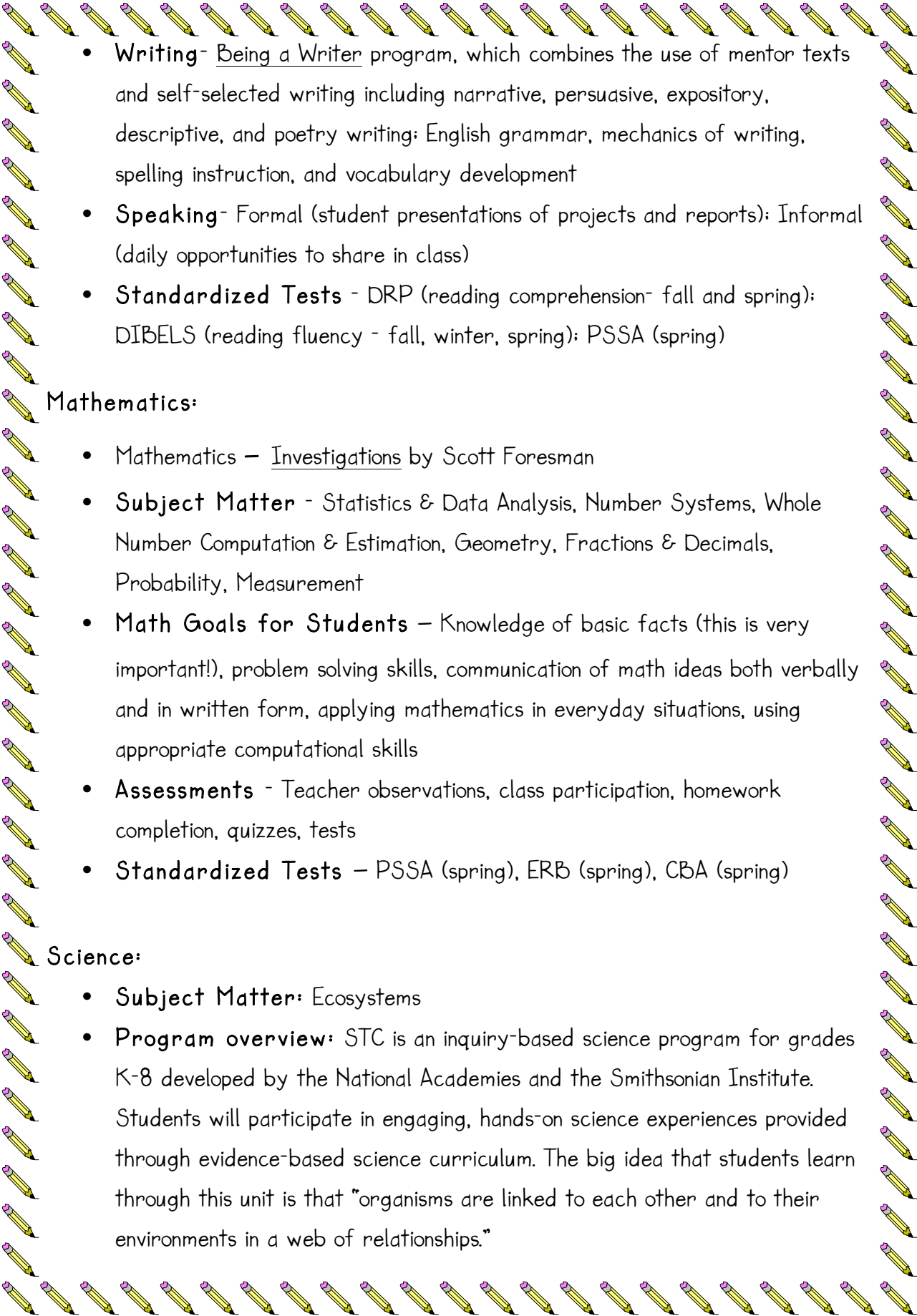
Curriculum Overview

Starting in the fourth grade, children begin the process of building on the basics that they have learned in the primary grades. In math, they will expand on their basic knowledge and will begin to apply the concepts at a higher level. For language arts, they will write more complex pieces and will work to refine the mechanics of writing. There will be more reading in the subject areas of history and science. The pace will pick up; the children will be expected to be more *independent* and *responsible* for their learning. **They will receive grades in math, science, and social studies.** The focus of homework will be on responsibility and independence, as well as reinforcement, practice, and challenge.

More details about the curriculum are as follows:

Language Arts:

- **Spelling** – Pretests on are Mondays and tests are on Fridays. Individualized lists are formed from student writing. Challenge words are available every week. Students must study their lists at home for Friday's test. No written spelling homework will be assigned. See the eBoard for study activities.
- **Reading**– Journeys published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Journeys is our core reading program designed to meet the diverse needs of all students. It includes whole group reading and leveled readers to facilitate the development of the students' comprehension, critical thinking skills, vocabulary, and fluency. During the winter, we read about and study Harriet Tubman and in the spring we will read Charlotte's Web. Students will also read magazines (TFK and National Geographic for Kids) and have self-selected reading time.

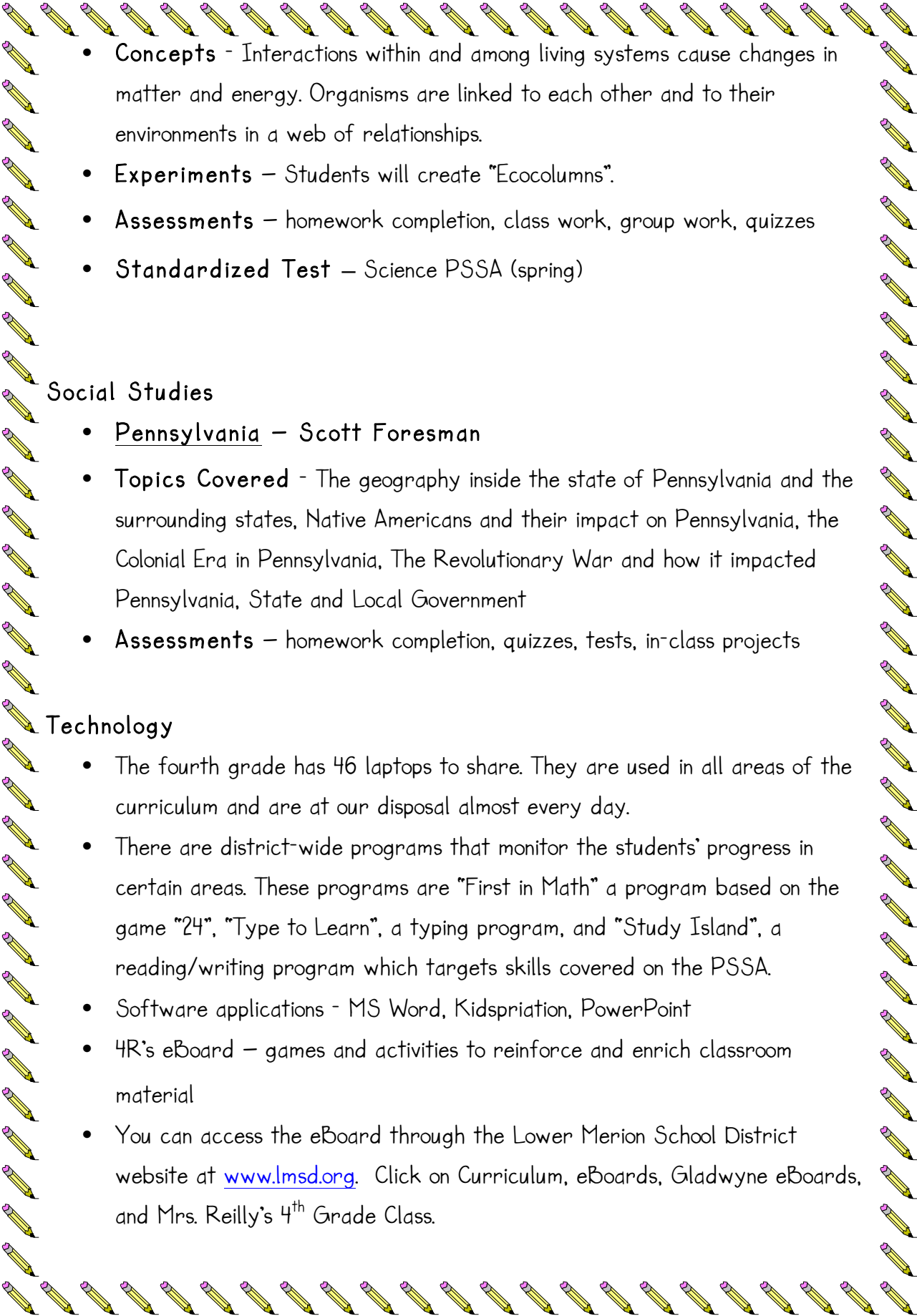
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- **Writing**- Being a Writer program, which combines the use of mentor texts and self-selected writing including narrative, persuasive, expository, descriptive, and poetry writing; English grammar, mechanics of writing, spelling instruction, and vocabulary development
 - **Speaking**- Formal (student presentations of projects and reports); Informal (daily opportunities to share in class)
 - **Standardized Tests** - DRP (reading comprehension- fall and spring); DIBELS (reading fluency - fall, winter, spring); PSSA (spring)

Mathematics:

- Mathematics – Investigations by Scott Foresman
- **Subject Matter** - Statistics & Data Analysis, Number Systems, Whole Number Computation & Estimation, Geometry, Fractions & Decimals, Probability, Measurement
- **Math Goals for Students** – Knowledge of basic facts (this is very important!), problem solving skills, communication of math ideas both verbally and in written form, applying mathematics in everyday situations, using appropriate computational skills
- **Assessments** - Teacher observations, class participation, homework completion, quizzes, tests
- **Standardized Tests** – PSSA (spring), ERB (spring), CBA (spring)

Science:

- **Subject Matter:** Ecosystems
- **Program overview:** STC is an inquiry-based science program for grades K-8 developed by the National Academies and the Smithsonian Institute. Students will participate in engaging, hands-on science experiences provided through evidence-based science curriculum. The big idea that students learn through this unit is that "organisms are linked to each other and to their environments in a web of relationships."

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- **Concepts** - Interactions within and among living systems cause changes in matter and energy. Organisms are linked to each other and to their environments in a web of relationships.
 - **Experiments** – Students will create “Ecocolumns”.
 - **Assessments** – homework completion, class work, group work, quizzes
 - **Standardized Test** – Science PSSA (spring)

Social Studies

- Pennsylvania – Scott Foresman
- **Topics Covered** - The geography inside the state of Pennsylvania and the surrounding states, Native Americans and their impact on Pennsylvania, the Colonial Era in Pennsylvania, The Revolutionary War and how it impacted Pennsylvania, State and Local Government
- **Assessments** – homework completion, quizzes, tests, in-class projects

Technology

- The fourth grade has 46 laptops to share. They are used in all areas of the curriculum and are at our disposal almost every day.
- There are district-wide programs that monitor the students’ progress in certain areas. These programs are “First in Math” a program based on the game “24”, “Type to Learn”, a typing program, and “Study Island”, a reading/writing program which targets skills covered on the PSSA.
- Software applications - MS Word, Kidspiration, PowerPoint
- 4R’s eBoard – games and activities to reinforce and enrich classroom material
- You can access the eBoard through the Lower Merion School District website at www.lmsd.org. Click on Curriculum, eBoards, Gladwyne eBoards, and Mrs. Reilly’s 4th Grade Class.



Social Skills & Conflict Resolution

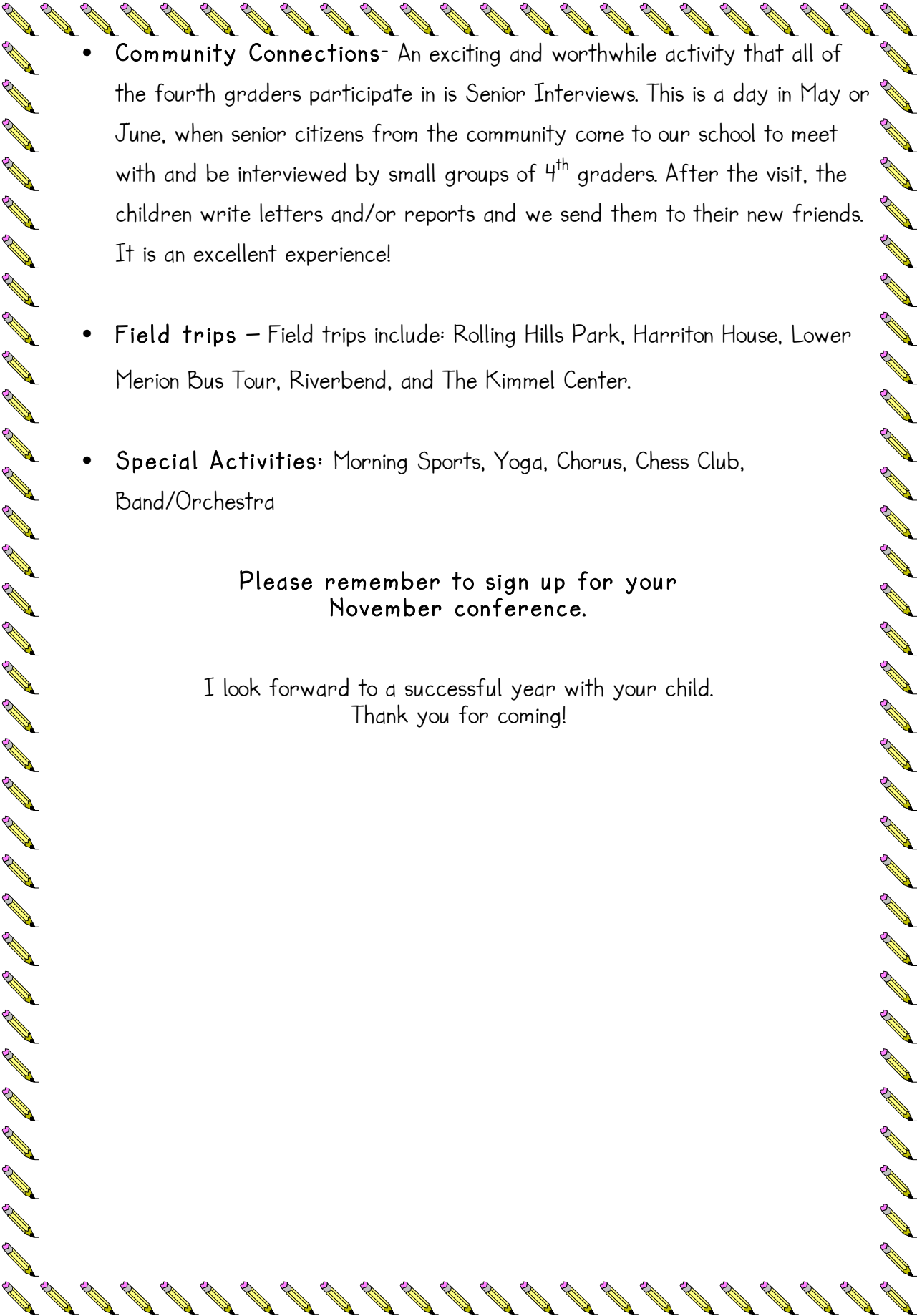
- All grade levels at Gladwyne use "Second Step", a program designed to help the children think about, develop, and practice positive social skills.
- Students will also be participating in the "No Place For Hate" program. *"This program was created by the Anti-Defamation League and "empowers children to challenge anti-Semitism, racism, and other forms of bigotry."*

Homework & Book Reports

- The focus of homework in the 4th grade is INDEPENDENCE ☺ and RESPONSIBILITY ☺. Sometimes homework might seem "too easy". This is because the objective of the homework assignment is for the child to feel what it is like to be 100% independent, while reinforcing and practicing something learned in school.
- I encourage the children to try to be in charge of "setting themselves up" for doing their homework, to try the work on their own, and to seek out help only if needed.
- Homework is assigned on Mondays and is due on Fridays, unless otherwise specified.
- There will typically be an "extra credit" page included with each week's homework; this is an enrichment activity for students to try.
- This year there will be six book reports. The children will select 3 activities from a choice of 30 for each report. Please see the book report schedule for due dates and genre requirements.

Other Important Information

- All major tests and assignments should be signed. Please promptly sign and return, as these items will be place in your child's portfolio.

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- **Community Connections-** An exciting and worthwhile activity that all of the fourth graders participate in is Senior Interviews. This is a day in May or June, when senior citizens from the community come to our school to meet with and be interviewed by small groups of 4th graders. After the visit, the children write letters and/or reports and we send them to their new friends. It is an excellent experience!
 - **Field trips** – Field trips include: Rolling Hills Park, Harriton House, Lower Merion Bus Tour, Riverbend, and The Kimmel Center.
 - **Special Activities:** Morning Sports, Yoga, Chorus, Chess Club, Band/Orchestra

Please remember to sign up for your
November conference.

I look forward to a successful year with your child.
Thank you for coming!