**Patton Elementary School**  **Arlington Heights School District 25**

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**Ms. Miller’s Fourth Grade Newsletter – September**

Dear Parents,

We’re off to a great start! Although it is early in the school year, our class has been very busy! We introduced reading this year by organizing the classroom library. **Take a look at some pictures on the classroom website!**

Students have enjoyed getting started with the Launch Unit of *Schoolwide*. The main purpose of the Launch Unit is to expose students to a variety of genres and to instill reading behaviors, routines, and expectations of workshop. Students will develop an understanding of themselves as readers and learn to self-select appropriate text. Students will learn how to effectively engage in a range of collaborative discussions. Applying skills such as self-monitoring, determining the meaning of challenging phrases using context clues, and drawing inferences will also be a focus of this unit.

We have jumped right in to writing as well. In WEX (writing), students have been practicing staying focused on one moment. It is wonderful to see the students open to sharing their writing, and celebrating each other’s successes.

High Frequency spelling lists have been sent home. At Curriculum Night I discussed that as soon as students master the fourth grade high frequency words, we will move on to *Words Their Way* for Spelling. For our High Frequency words spelling tests, students will be given two days to complete the spelling sentences and writing words assignment, so the homework will be due Wednesday. Students will then be tested on the spelling words on Thursday.

In math we just concluded our chapter on geometry. In our geometry unit, students have been learning to classify and identify polygons, practice using geometry tools, and review addition and subtraction fact extensions. Keep practicing those math facts! Students soon will examine different uses and equivalent names for numbers, and review the base-ten place value system. Students will review procedures for addition and subtraction of multidigit whole numbers. We will reintroduce and extend ideas about data collection, organization, display, and analysis.

We are beginning our science unit on Matter. The unit offers students a wide variety of hands-on experiences with matter. They observe and define solids, liquids and gases. They investigate the effects of temperature on solids, liquids, and gases. In doing so, students learn how matter changes states. To further extend students’ understanding of matter, they will work on an at home matter project. More information about the matter project will come home this Friday.

Each student received a book order form from ***Scholastic***. Scholastic book orders will be due at the last Friday of the month. If you are interested in purchasing a book, the orders will be done online. Instructions for online ordering can be found on the home page of the classroom website. This month, the orders will be due by **Friday, September 25**.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions! My email is lamiller@sd25.org.

Sincerely,

Ms. Miller