

Updates for 4B – 9/5/12

Reading Log Assessment – Parent Section (at least once a week)

Using written feedback as an assessment tool offers a more meaningful picture of student progress. Written feedback reveals student GLOWs or areas of strength and GROWs or areas in need of improvement.

Everyday during reader's workshop, students will share and provide feedback on a nightly reading log in a peer conference, which we call our "Book Buzz." In addition to peer feedback, the teacher and 'ohana will also participate in providing written feedback. These assessments will inform and better support self-reflection on their progress in reading and writing.

Here's how 'ohana can help...

At least once a week, provide written feedback on a nightly reading log (see the reading log example pages in the open house folder or front of the tablet). Reading log assessments are done on the opposite page of each reading log. To provide feedback, write the assessment code (see code page in the open house folder or front of the tablet) with a clear and concise comment. Assessment codes indicate the type of comment being shared. Try to provide a GLOW, GROW, AND QUESTION. Asking a question is important. Questions encourage reflective thinking and goal setting.

Word Study Tablet – Parents are welcome to check-in

Words are sometimes ignored, especially if they are too hard or too long. The goal in keeping a word study tablet is to change the attitude of students. We want them to realize the value of seeking out a deeper understanding of not only challenging words, but words that stand out for whatever reason.

Every night, as the students read, they track words (at least 3 a night) that are colorful, confusing, and/or challenging (see the instructions in the front of their tablet). These are the words that they will study the next day in class. They not only look for the definition of the words, but also look at parts of speech, pronunciation, syllables, and even connections to similar words.

Here's how 'ohana can help...

Every so often check in with your child on the words they are studying. Perhaps you can help them better understand it and possibly practice using them at home. Ultimately, we want students to broaden their vocabulary to not only assist in their reading comprehension, but also in developing their writing. Join in the fun of word play!

Homework – Long-Term Column

On the right planner page in the words of week column, students have listed long-term homework assignments.

Long-term means:

- The assignment is due in a few days or week(s).
- The assignment is on-going and regular practice is required.

Here's how 'ohana can help...

When signing the planner, please review the long-term list. Assignments are added and deleted throughout the week. Long-term assignments may also stay the same for consecutive weeks.

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IXL – Math has begun as of August 27, 2012

IXL student accounts are active and each student is aware of how to login to their own account. In the first half of fourth grade, students are required to practice **20 minutes of IXL a week**. Depending on the math unit of study, IXL practice may be assigned by skill and/or grade level. Students will list skills to practice for the week in their planner under long-term.

Here is how 'ohana can help...

Please review the IXL sheets in the open house folder. Students must complete 20 minutes a week by Saturday. I recommend finishing by 12:00 noon. This allows time for IXL to generate a report of skills and time practiced. This report is available to both teacher and parents to review and monitor.