

Dear Parent,



We're excited to have your child in Fourth Grade at Whitmore Lake Elementary School.

This is a very important year in your child's life, and we're pleased to be part of it.

At school, we're building on the skills that your child has already learned and we're introducing new ones. See this side of the brochure for details about what we're doing this year in Science.

At home, your child can practice the skills we're learning at school. See the other side of this brochure for easy things that you can do to encourage that practice.

By working together, we can make sure that your child acquires the skills he or she needs to be successful in school and life.

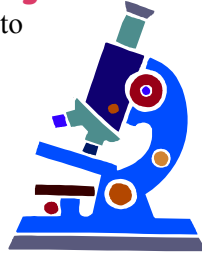
We look forward to working with you and your child this year. When you have questions, please feel free to contact me us 449-2051.

Sincerely,
The Fourth Grade Teachers

In every grade, we teach Science skills that will help students:

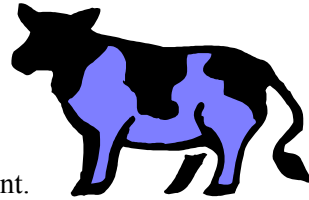
Learn by investigating

- Use scientific methods to ask questions, conduct investigations using technology, and gather, analyze, and communicate information.



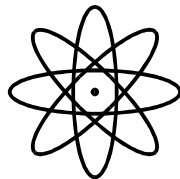
Understand living things

- Understand the structure and function of living things, their systems and how living things interact with the environment.



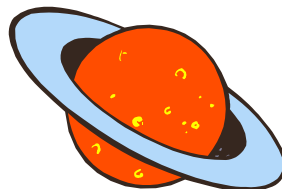
Understand natural forces

- Understand the interactions between matter, energy, forces, and motion.



Understand earth and space

- Understand the cycles and systems of the Earth, solar system and universe.



In Fourth Grade, we teach Science skills that will help your child:

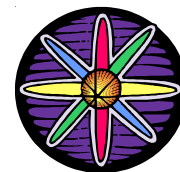
Learn by investigating

- Conduct investigations which use the scientific method.
- Understand the difference between a variable and a control.
- Understand that the Science Fair is the end product of communicating a finished scientific investigation.
- Use tools and technology for collecting and analyzing data.



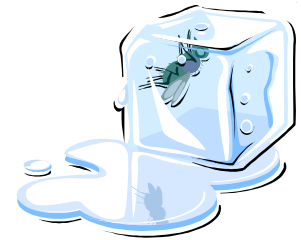
Understand living things

- Describe the main elements of an ecosystem, including food chains, food webs, community, and region.
- Observe adaptations to local environments.
- Describe our own wetland community at Whitmore Lake Elementary School, and our part in the Great Lakes watershed.



Understand natural forces

- Describe the three states of matter: liquid, solid, and gas.
- Understand that atoms and molecules are the smallest part of matter.
- Describe physical changes in the states of matter, for example freezing and dissolving.
- Investigate static electricity as a form of energy.
- Create simple series and parallel circuits.
- Identify protons, electrons, and neutrons.
- Describe properties of a magnet such as polarity, attraction and repulsion.



Understand earth and space

- Describe the water cycle and how water exists on Earth in three states. Describe change of Earth's surface (erosion).
- Identify sources of water.

Whitmore Lake Elementary School
1077 Barker Rd.
Whitmore Lake, MI 48189



Learn by investigating

- Attend the Parent Science Fair Workshop to assist students in completing their projects.
- Provide opportunities for research by taking children to the library.
- Learn the scientific method and try to use it in simple problems encountered at home.
- Conduct a simple experiment several times to see if you get the same results each time.

Understand living things

- Visit places like the Howell Nature Center, Kensington Metro Park, Hudson Mills, Leslie Science Center or any other Nature Center.
- Subscribe to child-friendly magazines like [Kids Discover](#), [Ranger Rick](#), [Contact 3,2,1](#).
- Watch educational television like PBS, The Learning Channel, Discovery Channel for shows like “Kids Discover,” and “Kratt’s Creatures.”

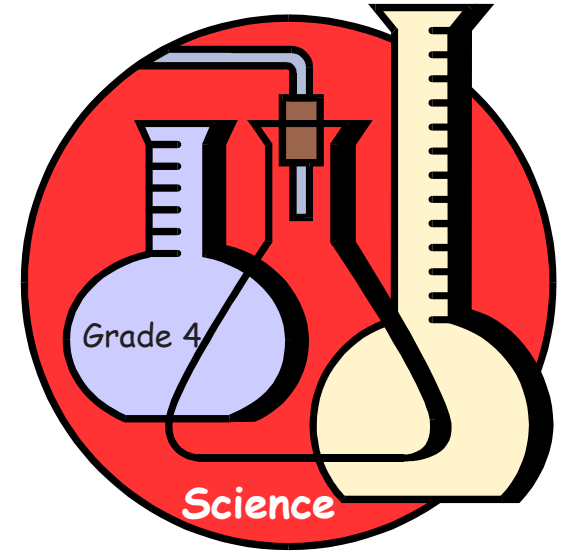
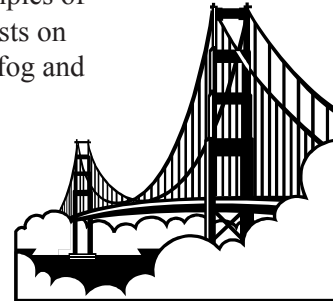
Understand natural forces

- Create “Kitchen Science” activities by encouraging experimentation with refrigerator magnets, balloons, and ice.
- Take apart old electrical appliances (cut the cords off first)
- Watch television shows like “Bill Nye, the Science Guy”.
- Visit museums like the Ann Arbor Hands-on Museum, Detroit Science Center or the Henry Ford Museum.



Understand earth and space

- Observe examples of how water exists on Earth such as fog and dew.




Whitmore Lake Elementary School

In Fourth Grade, we're teaching your child important discovery skills.

What are these skills?

How can you help your child practice them?

 ...exceptional,
personalized education

For more good ideas, ask your child's teacher, or contact:
Whitmore Lake Elementary School
1077 Barker Road • Whitmore Lake
Michigan • 48189
(734) 449-2051 • <http://www.wlps.net>