Fourth Grade Family Newsletter

Martha's Vineyard Public Charter School • September 18, 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Our first weeks of fourth grade have been filled with getting to know one another, building classroom routines, and learning together. It has been encouraging to hear that students are sharing their poems, funny stories, and classroom discoveries at home. Here is a look at our work and what is coming next.

Important dates

When	What to know
Tuesday, September 22	Picture Day! Please complete the picture order forms to order prints. Our first math quiz is also Tuesday.
Thursday, September 24	Our first grammar quiz.
Next week	Artist in Residence and Social Studies/Science begin.
Friday, October 9	Early dismissal at 12:30 p.m.
Monday, October 12	No school.

Our classroom learning

The six pillars. We have explored Trust, Responsibility, Cooperation, Democracy, Respect, and Freedom through discussions, group activities, and learning about people who exemplify these qualities. These conversations help us connect the pillars to everyday choices in our classroom.

Biopoems and writing. Students have used biopoems to share their interests, strengths, feelings, and hopes while learning more about their classmates. Our class Mad Libs have brought plenty of laughter and given students a playful way to practice parts of speech.

Grammar. We have been working with nouns, proper nouns, pronouns, and action, helping, and linking verbs. Our adjective work has encouraged students to move beyond words such as "good" or "nice" and choose precise descriptions, including words connected to the five senses.

Place value. Students have explored the value of digits and different ways to represent numbers using blocks, drawings, standard form, word form, and expanded form. Challenges such as "How many ways can you make 101?" encourage flexible thinking. Calculators have also sparked enthusiasm as students explore numbers.

Classroom learning and family reminders

Cooperation and reflection. Our Hula Hoop Rock, Paper, Scissors game gave students opportunities to practice teamwork, turn-taking, encouragement, and good sportsmanship. Learning about Wells Crowther, “the Man in the Red Bandana,” also prompted thoughtful conversations about helping others and connecting our pillars to real people’s actions.

Homework and nightly signatures

Please review and sign your student’s agenda book each school night so you are aware of any assigned homework. This past week, students were asked to have their agendas signed. If a student does not have their agenda book, I will provide a paper for you to sign. This routine helps students, families, and school stay on the same page about assignments.

Some homework will require digital access. Students have usernames and passwords for IXL, which we will use to practice specific ELA and math skills alongside written work and classroom instruction. Please contact me if your student has trouble signing in or if access to a device or the internet is a concern.

Ready for the school day

Please send your student with a healthy snack each day and a healthy lunch if they are not receiving lunch from our kitchen. Having enough to eat helps students maintain the energy and focus they need for learning and participating throughout the day.

Staying connected

I plan to use ClassDojo as an additional communication tool, alongside email, as many families did in third grade. You can continue to reach me at eking@mvpcs.org or through the school at (508) 693-9900.

Chelsea, our music teacher, will begin strings soon. Please contact her with questions at cpennebaker@mvpcs.org.

If we have not yet met for your student’s PEP, please email me to schedule a time to discuss your student’s goals.

Thank you for supporting our classroom community. Ask your student to share a favorite Mad Lib, a line from their biopoem, or an example of one of our pillars in action!

Warmly,
Elliot King, M.Ed.
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