**April Optional Challenges**

**Due Friday, May 1st**

**Math/Cooking**

* Practice your skills with fractions. Choose a recipe at home. Figure out how much of each ingredient you would need to double and triple the recipe. What would happen if you cut the amounts in the recipe in half? Use your measuring cups and spoons at home to find out some of these equivalents. How many teaspoons in a tablespoon? How many tablespoons in 1/2 cup? How many 1/4 cups in 1 and 1/2 cups? Make up some problems of your own to solve.

**Creative Writing**

* April is National Poetry Month. Try out your skills writing different types of poems like couplets, limericks, cinquain, haiku and shape poems. Share some of your favorites with the class. You could even put your different poems together in a book!

**Science**

* April is a great month for planting and observing the life cycle of plants. Start some seeds at home. Try starting them under different conditions: in full sunlight, in the dark, in water, in sand, in garden soil, in the refrigerator. Keep track of the results and make a graph or chart to illustrate the results.

**Art and Invention**

* Leonardo da Vinci was born on April 15, 1452 in Italy. He was a famous artist and inventor. Do some research on da Vinci. Try to do some artwork of your own in the style of da Vinci. Da Vinci was well known for his technical drawing and models. Find out about his models and try to build a similar model.

**Ecology**

* Earth Day is April 22nd. Make a commitment to change one thing you do to make it friendlier to the Earth. Examples: recycle your juice boxes, pack a no-garbage lunch, use both sides of pieces of paper before recycling, compost your fruit and veggie scraps. Talk to your family members and see if they will also make a commitment to change one thing to improve the Earth’s health. Go on-line and find out about Earth Day celebrations around the United States. Plan an oral report to tell your classmates about a good idea that you found.

**Literature**

* Beverly Cleary who wrote the Ramona, Henry Huggins and Mouse and the Motorcycle series, was born April 12, 1916. Choose one of her books to read and write a review of the book to present to the class. Another option is to research Ms. Cleary’s life and display your findings on a poster to show your class.

**Social Studies**

* a map of your home, the block you live on, or the school. Study maps of different places to see what to include on your map.