



4TH GRADE NEWS



Quote of the month:

“All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them.”
- Walt Disney

WHAT ARE WE LEARNING THIS MONTH?

In reading...

We are continuing to work on non-fiction reading. We are moving on to reading historical nonfiction texts to support us in reading and social studies. The historical nonfiction texts will help students learn about European Explorers, our new social studies topic.

Historical texts promote students' understanding of how and when events took place, in addition to why the information is important to history. This unit will also further develop the text structures previously taught, specifically the cause and effect and sequence/chronology structures.

As students are reading at home, please encourage them to think about the cause and effect or chronology structures. Students should focus on making connections between events in history.

In writing...

4th graders will be working on writing literary essays (opinion writing about literary texts). Literary Essayists write introductions that end with a clear statement of the thesis, and forecasting sentences that preview how the body paragraphs are going to go. Students have learned the structure of literary essay, how to paraphrase, and how to plan the essay out. The essay should include 5 paragraphs, a thesis statement, an introduction, topic sentences, support/evidence, transitions, quotations, and a conclusion.

Writer's will also continue to practice their use of signal phrases to indicate whether their details are support, or a reason, or connected by a text structure such as cause and effect.

In math...

We will continue to explore multiplication and division.

During these units it is vital that students practice their multiplication facts daily to help support division. At home, have your student explain how to solve multi-digit multiplication problems using an open array, partial products, or by using the distributive property. Students in the upper grades need to be able to solve problems using multiple strategies & explain their thinking.

In division, students will explore multiple strategies such as partial quotients, open array, and drawing pictures to help solve. Keep in mind that division is closely related to multiplication and students can, and should use their known multiplication facts to help solve division problems.

We are aware that parents may not be familiar with these strategies, so please have your students explain and teach them to you. As always, we want students to find a strategy that works best for them. However, it is important to be able to think flexibly and try different approaches to solving problems.

<p>In social studies... The 4th graders are learning about Native Americans and explorers. In this unit, students will read stories about Native Americans and explorers.</p>	<p>In science... The fourth grade scientists have been busy using their science notebooks and learning about producers, consumers, and decomposers within an ecosystem. Your child will be taking their notebooks home the week of December 4. They will also receive a review sheet in preparation for their Unit 1 assessment. At home, you can help review some of the science words we have used in class.</p> <p>In art... Fourth graders are learning about paper engineering. We have been creating pop-up paper sculptures. Next, we will create pop-up sculpture books.</p>	<p>In technology... During the month of December, 4th grade students will kick off an Introduction to Computer Science Unit during Computer Science Education Week (December 9th-13th). During this unit students will learn basic programming principles through Blockly Code (a visual, interlocking, block based programming language). Students are encouraged to practice their keyboarding skills at home using their Keyboarding Without Tears accounts. When practicing, students should be mindful of keeping their fingers on the home row, using the correct finger to type corresponding keys, as well as using proper computer posture.</p> <p>In gym... Fourth graders will be finishing up our endurance fitness pacer and working on push-ups, sit-ups, and flexibility stretching.</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Upcoming Dates & Important Events</i></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">12/20-1/1: Winter Recess (Return to school on Thursday January 2nd!)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HAVE A WONDERFUL WINTER BREAK!!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Questions to Ask Your Child About Reading</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → What are the big ideas in your reading? → Can you identify the main idea? → Is there anything new you learned? → What kind of nonfiction text structures are you seeing in your books? → What do you already know about the topic of the book? → What connections can you make between your books, or personal experiences? → How can we use pictures and captions to help us understand the meaning of the text?
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Things to keep in mind + practice at home:

- ❖ Read every night for at least 40 minutes.
- ❖ Read nonfiction books.
- ❖ Practice multiplication facts every night.
- ❖ Read out loud for 10 minutes.
- ❖ Do some exercise.
- ❖ Get lots of sleep.

Math websites that can help reinforce what we are teaching:

www.myon.com

www.khanacademy.org

<http://www.coolmath-games.com/1-number-games>

<https://xtramath.org/#/home/index>

<https://www.brainpop.com>

Username:ps230

Password:brainpop

<https://www.pebblege.com>

Username:ps230

Password:ps230

HABIT OF MIND FOCUS for DECEMBER:

Reflectiveness!

Students who demonstrate reflectiveness will display flexibility in their learning and partnerships in the classroom.