



4th GRADE NEWS



Quote of the month:

Being kind isn't always easy or convenient but it has the potential to change everything." - Unknown

WHAT ARE WE LEARNING THIS MONTH?

In reading...

4th graders will be reading fiction- Interpreting characters: The heart of the story (Signpost). The goal in this unit is to identify and understand all six signposts (contrast & contradiction, again & again, memory moment, aha moment, tough question, and words of the wiser). This will promote students' understanding to identify and use signposts to help build reading comprehension. We will be reading the story Tiger Rising to support their comprehension. Students will identify a character's traits and how the character changes, using text evidence to support their claims from the story. To deepen understanding of characters we use graphic organizers. This will support the students learning. Students should focus on making connections between the book and the signpost. This will make it more cohesive.

In writing...

4th graders will be working on writing literary essays (opinion writing). 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 workshop is an opportunity for students to share their thoughts, give feedback and encourage sharing!

In math...

4th graders will be working on measuring and classifying shapes: two dimensional geometry and measurement. In this unit students will draw and identify lines and angles, including parallel and perpendicular lines, and classify polygons by properties of their sides and angles.

Students will also be reviewing place values and solidifying their knowledge of rounding and estimation. We will continue to review work in this unit and continue to work on straight computations, solving word problems, multiplication, and division skills. Encourage your child to identify known and unknown information in a problem before solving, and think about what the problem is asking. "First In Math" is up and running, have fun!

<p>In Social Studies...</p> <p>The fourth graders will be studying Colonial America. Students will be comparing and contrasting life in the New England, Mid-Atlantic, and Southern Colonies. We will discuss the physical geography, social life, and economics. Students will also learn how different groups of people experienced life in colonial America. Any projects will be done by individual classes.</p>	<p>In science...</p> <p>The fourth grade scientists will explore the transfer of energy. We will be making electrical testers, which will help us sort objects made of various materials. These electrical testers will allow the students to classify objects into conductors (materials that allow the flow of electricity) and insulators (materials that do not allow the flow of electricity). Looking ahead, we will be combining electricity and magnetism to make our own electromagnets. At home, many students may want to try some of the activities we have done in class, but you may want to review your home safety rules for electricity and magnetism as we do in class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Never put any object other than a certified plug into wall sockets or outlets. • Do not open the case of an electrical appliance that is plugged in. • Do not bring magnets near computers, videotapes, cell phones, or audio recordings. 	<p>In Technology...During the month of February, 4th grade students will continue a research unit on their key player or big event from the American Revolution. Students will seek answers to their research questions by using online sources that they have previously evaluated. Students are welcome to do additional research on their 'key player' or "big event" at home and bring in their findings. If your child has home computer access with Internet and wants to use their Typing Without Tears account at home, please email Ms. Connolly at Kconnolly8@schools.nyc.gov for more information.</p> <p>In gym...4th graders will be working on coordination and group game activities. Instruction will also focus on teamwork and good sportsmanship.</p>
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