

FABULOUS FOURTH GRADE

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December 2018

Reading

Unit of Study: Cultures

- Students will identify and understand character traits, feelings, and motivations.
- Analyze a story's narrative point of view.
- Identify and understand an author's use of hyperbole.
- Learn more about the topic of traditional tales.
- Identify and understand scenes and setting in a play.

How to help at home:

- Discuss key ideas after reading stories with your child.
- Examine and understand the structure of the text your child is reading.

Writing

Unit of Study: Compare and Contrast Essay

- Students will use research from Social Studies to plan, draft, and revise a compare and contrast essay.
- Students will learn to express their opinions about Native Americans in an organized format, using transition words and linking phrases.

How to help at home:

- Ask your child to discuss vocabulary used in Social Studies.
- Ask your child to discuss similarities and differences between the two Native American groups.

Math:

Unit of Study: Divide by 1-Digit Numbers

Essential Question: How can we divide by 1-digit numbers?

Math Goal: Find whole-number quotients and remainders with up to four-digit dividends and one-digit divisors.

How to help at home:

- Continue to practice basic facts in all operations for both speed and accuracy.
- Make sure that your child is checking to make sure their answer is reasonable before submitting their homework.
- Review the strategy of the day and ask them to model a problem for you (ex: partial products, estimation)

Social Studies

Unit of Study: Native Americans: First Inhabitants of New York State

- Students will study Native American groups including Iroquois and Algonquin-speaking groups.
- Students will identify the role geography played in daily life.

How to help at home:

- Visit the library for resources to further their learning
- Look for examples of how our life today has been affected by the Native American culture.

Sanford Harmony

Unit of Study: A Month of Kindness

Students will discuss ways they can uplift their peers and families through kind gestures.

MUSIC - MRS. GLEMBOSKI

In 4th Grade Music, we are continuing our studies of the Holiday Concert music. Our focus this month is on memorization and characterization. Please encourage your child to study their song lyrics, as they will need to be memorized for our Holiday Concert on December 8th at 9:00am. Please visit our music website at:

<http://mrsglemboskismusicroom.weebly.com/>

COMPUTERS-MR. CANIANO

Our fourth graders will be focusing on code this month, especially during the first week of December which is Computer Science For All Week. We will start by working with two important websites: *Code.org* and *Scratch*. Our students will review basic concepts such as sequence, debugging, and loops and also work with conditionals and functions. In addition, we will also use Scratch to create a ping pong game. Please encourage your child to use Scratch and to log into Code.org Course E while at home for added practice.

ART-Ms. Pecoraro

The students will create original paintings inspired by the work of Artist Alexander Calder.

Supporting the Arts at Home:

Take a nature walk and discover all of the organic shapes found outside. These curvy, natural shapes can be found in leaves, trees, pumpkins, clouds, puddles, etc.

SAVE THE DATE: Family Art Night is scheduled for Thursday January 24, 2019.

Physical Education - Mr. Stewart

These past months have been hard work for our fitness experts. We are working to complete our Fitnessgram assessments. Thanks to our students' cooperation and motivation to become healthier individuals we are close to meeting our goals. In the month of December we will be learning about passing games such as soccer, lacrosse, team handball and hockey. In these games passing is crucial element to reaching the goal. It is crucial that all students understand the rules, boundaries, and positions of passing games so they can understand and better relate to sport. We will incorporate interdisciplinary aspects such as journal writing, statistics, graphing and team management. Winter is going to be a blast!

Science - Mrs Rothenberg

Students are continuing to take on the role of systems engineers for Ergstown, a fictional town that experiences frequent blackouts, and exploring reasons why an electrical system may fail. They have obtained information from science books and system models to learn about types of energy, energy sources, energy transfer, and energy conversion. This month we will complete this unit. Our focus will be on the chapter 4 question: How does energy get to the devices all over Ergstown?

Students figure out: The energy that comes from the source is transferred through the electrical grid. The devices won't function if the wires that connect the source converter and the devices are broken. This can happen if the connections between the grid and the converters aren't strong enough, if the wires aren't in a secure location, or if there aren't enough backup wires.

Talk to your child about the world around them. What forms of energy are evident in their own lives? Encourage them to make observations and to discuss any conclusions they have come to or things they are still wondering.

Looking Ahead:

- December 5 - Holiday Gift Fair
- December 12- Hurricanes @ PS 18 10am
- December 13- Marathon Playhouse Trip
- December 14 - Holiday Assembly
- December 17- Hurricanes Vs. PS 18
- December 19 - Photo Retake Day
- December 21 - Holiday Concert/Breakfast
- December 24 - January 1 - Winter Recess. Happy Holidays!

PS 221 North Hills School
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Principal: Patricia Bullard
Assistant Principal: Karen Strauzer

We're on the Web!
See us at:
PS221Q.org