

FABULOUS FOURTH GRADE

L. DuPignac, M. Giusto J. Kriegsman, M. Tung, S. Utic

February 2019

Reading

Unit of Study: Reading Across Genres

Big Idea: How can we build our reading strategies and skills through the use of short texts in various genres?

Students will:

- Read fictional and nonfictional texts including poems, historical fiction, plays, and prose
- Students must utilize strategies and skills to comprehend fictional texts, as well as nonfiction texts

How to Help at Home:

- Continue to ask your child what they are reading about and further discuss the topic.
- Be sure your child is using strategies, such as, returning to the text, underlining important details, and rereading a passage to answer questions.
- Ask your child to show you how they came to their conclusion using specific evidence from the text.



Writing

Unit of Study: Personal and Persuasive Essays

Students will

- Learn the structure of essay format.
- Form thesis statements and support them using different types of reasons.
- Focus on form and content by gathering a variety of evidence to support their opinions.

How to help at home:

- Encourage your child to discuss their opinions using supporting details.
- Make sure their supporting details are strong and valid reasons to support their opinions.

Math

Unit of Study: Fraction Equivalence and Comparison

Big Idea: Which strategies can we use to compare fractions and write equivalent fractions?

Students will:

- Use models and multiplication to find equivalent fractions
- Write fractions in simplest form
- Write pairs of fractions with common denominators
- Compare and order fractions

How to Help at Home:

- Review math vocabulary, such as:
 - Equivalent fractions
 - Simplest form
 - Common denominator
- Ask your child to demonstrate their understanding of the math vocabulary by giving you examples.
Ex: $\frac{3}{6}$ in simplest form is $\frac{1}{2}$.

Social Studies

Unit of Study: Colonial and Revolutionary Period in New York

Essential Question: What motivates people to explore and colonize other lands?

Essential Questions:

- What happened in New York after various groups of explorers settled in New York state?
- What were the lasting economic, cultural, and social contributions made by the Dutch, English, and French colonists?

How to Help at Home:

- Ask your child to discuss what they are learning using the essential questions above.
- Review the content area vocabulary (assembly, governor, tax, tolerance)

Sanford Harmony

Students are encouraged to state their opinions and respect diverse viewpoints.

MUSIC – MRS. GLEMBOSKI

In 4th Grade Music, we will continue learning the Ukulele! Your child will be learning the parts of the instrument, how string instruments work, and the basic techniques of how to hold, strum and pluck the instrument. We will begin exploring with singing and accompanying ourselves on simple songs on the ukulele. Please visit our music website at:

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

SCIENCE – MRS ROTHENBERG

Unit Question - Why is an increase in light affecting the health of Tokay geckos in a Philippine rain forest? Our fourth graders will continue their work as conservation biologists! So far they have learned the following:

- Animals have different structures that allow them to get information from their environment, which helps them survive
- Light needs to reflect off of an object for an animal to see the object
- Light receptors in the eye respond to light and send information to the brain and the brain can then form an image
- After forming an image, the brain compares the image to memories, which allows the animal to make a decision that could help it survive.

This month we will investigate the following questions:

Chapter 4: How could more light at night make it hard for a Tokay gecko to see its prey?

Chapter 5: How do our senses help us understand our environment?

**ART-Ms. Pecoraro**

This month fourth grade students will be switching from computer to art class. We will begin working on artworks that express different emotions inspired by our School-Wide Mood Meter Initiative!

Thank you to all of the teachers, staff, parents, volunteers and participants for another wonderful and enjoyable Family Art Night! 😊

Supporting the Arts at Home:

Take time to look at artwork with your child in a book, online, or in a museum/gallery. Have a discussion about what you see and how the artwork makes them feel. If you find an artwork that inspires you, create a drawing or similar artwork of your own.

**Computers-Mr. Caniano**

This month, our fourth graders will be coding with Code.org Course E, with an emphasis on reviewing debugging. After researching and discussing how to be safe online, the students will also write a short essay on internet safety using *Microsoft Word*. Please encourage your child to use *Word* and *Code.org* at home for added practice. Passwords and usernames for code.org will be sent home with each child.

**Physical Education – Mr. Stewart**

Our 4th graders will continue working on key elements of passing games and net games. We will incorporate interdisciplinary aspects such as journal writing, statistics, graphing and team management. We also introduced a student led teaching model. This model allows students the opportunity to lead competitive stations, where their peers can showcase talents and earn prizes. We will begin a curriculum focused on staying healthy and preventing the spread of sickness.

Looking Ahead:

2/5 – Lunar New Year. School closed

2/6 & 2/8 – Hands-on Science Program

2/7 – Hurricanes Home Game

2/18-2/22: Winter Break/ **School Closed**

2/25 – Sky Dome Presentation

PS 221 North Hills School
Little Neck, NY 11362

Principal: Patricia Bullard
Assistant Principal: Karen Strauzer

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