

FABULOUS FOURTH GRADE

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

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Reading

Unit of Study: Reading across Genres

Big idea: Students will work on building reading skills to successfully perform on any reading assessment.

- Students will apply reading comprehension skills and strategies to a variety of genres.
- Students will understand and follow directions.
- Students will deconstruct multiple choice, and short and extended response questions.

How to Help at Home

- Encourage your child to read a variety of genres, including short stories.
- Review academic vocabulary, such as folk tales, short stories, fairy tales, and fables.

Writing

Unit of Study: Writing to Answer Questions

Big idea: Students will practice strategies and skills to answer short and extended response questions.

- Students will utilize strategies, such as, echoing the question and using supporting details in the response.
- Writers will focus on using transition words to link ideas in their writing.
- Writers will practice using a planning page to organize their ideas for extended response questions.

How to Help at Home

- Continue to emphasize the importance of proper mechanics, including capitalization, punctuation, and transitional phrases.
- Encourage your child to go back to the question when they are finished to ensure that they've answered all parts of the question in their writing.

Sanford Harmony

Area of Focus: Positive Thinking

Lesson: "Pop That Bubble"

Through reflecting on their thoughts, feelings, and actions, students will turn negative situations into positive ones. This will reinforce diversity, respect and tolerance for all.

Math

Unit of Study: Add and Subtract Fractions

Essential Question: How do you add or subtract fractions and mixed numbers?

Math Goals:

- Understand that, to add or subtract fractions, there must be a common denominator.
- Use models to represent and find sums and differences involving fractions.
- Solve word problems involving addition and subtraction with fractions.
- Rename mixed numbers to add and subtract.

How to Help at Home

- Emphasize creating models and/or using common denominators to add or subtract fractions.
- Review vocabulary, such as:
 - Mixed number
 - Unit fraction
 - Simplest form.

Social Studies

Unit of Study: Freedom and the New Nation: Federal, State and Local Government

Essential Questions:

- What were the steps leading to the Articles of Federation and the Constitution?
- What were some of the earliest political parties in the United States?
- What are the branches of government?
- What was life like for freed slaves in the United States after the Revolutionary War?
- What were some causes of the Civil War?

How to Help at Home:

- Ask your child to discuss what they are learning using the essential questions above.
- Review the content area vocabulary

MUSIC - MRS. GLEMBOSKI

In 4th Grade Music, we will continue learning the Ukulele! Your child will be learning basic and familiar folk tunes on the ukulele. We will begin exploring with singing and accompanying ourselves on simple songs on the ukulele. Please visit our new music website at:

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

**Computers-Mr. Caniano**

This month the students will be using *Microsoft Word* to complete a research essay on online safety. First, we will use thinking maps to organize our writing. We will then use these thinking maps to help gather our research. After we write our first draft and check for grammar and spelling errors, we will add a border, Word Art title, and Clip Art to our work. In addition, we will also be starting Code.org Course E this month with an emphasis on debugging. Passwords will be sent home after the students begin the course. The students will also be given an account with Typing.com to practice their typing skills. Please encourage your child to log into Code.org and Typing.com at home for added practice.

**Physical Education – Mr. Stewart**

Our 4th graders will continue working on key elements of both skill and health related fitness. We introduced a student led teaching model called “Kid’s Competition”. This model allows students the opportunity to lead competitive stations, where their peers can showcase talents and earn prizes. We will begin filling in peer assessment forms that show our progress in different developmental skills and exercises over the course of the year. We will continue our curriculum focused on staying healthy and preventing the spread of sickness.

**Art - Ms. Pecoraro**

Thank you so much to everyone who participated and supported Family Art Night! This month we will be working on special artworks for a school wide fundraiser that will take place later this year!...Square 1 Art is back! 😊

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!

Science – Mrs. Rothenberg**UNIT: PLANT AND ANIMAL SURVIVAL**

Our fourth graders will work to figure out what helps and hinders the survival of plants and animals. We will discuss plant and animal adaptations.

This month we will investigate the following questions:

- What do animals need to survive?
- What do plants need to live?
- How do plants and animals adapt to meet their needs for survival?

Looking Ahead:

March 1 - Dr. Seuss Day/Pajama Day
 March 6 - Family Fitness Night
 March 12 - Report Card Distribution
 March 14 - Parent Teacher Conferences

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