

FABULOUS FOURTH GRADE

D. DeMartino, M. Giusto, J. Kriegsman, C. Soladitch-Crawford, M. Tung, S. Velic

MARCH 2020

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

Science - Mrs. Rothenberg**UNIT: THE WATER CYCLE**

We will complete our unit on the water cycle. This month we will investigate the following questions:

- What is the water cycle?
- What is evaporation?
- What is condensation?
- What is precipitation

Supporting Science at Home

Talk to your child about the world around them. Carefully observe examples of the water cycle in action. Steam from a pot on the stove, a foggy bathroom mirror after showering, and water running down the side of a cold glass are just a few examples of the water cycle in action in our own homes.

Visit www.mrsrothenbergsscience.weebly.com for more information.

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.

Looking Ahead:

03/13 - Talent Show - 7:00 P.M.

03/25-03/26 - NYS ELA Exam

**ART-Mrs. Matsias**

Students will work on dynamic drawings in the art room for a school wide fund raiser that will take place later this year...Square 1 Art is back! 😊

Supporting the Arts at Home:

Set aside a little time and make a craft project with your child! Here is a link with some great ideas: <http://www.parents.com/fun/arts-crafts/> Have FUN!

**Physical Education - Mr. Stewart**

Our 4th graders will continue working on key elements of passing games and net games. Last month we practiced badminton and floor hockey. This month's focus will be table tennis and lacrosse. We will be able to incorporate interdisciplinary aspects such as journal writing, statistics, graphing and team management. We will use a peer assessment model where students help create assessments and measure each other's performance. During these lessons we use stopwatches, pedometers, Heart Rate Monitors and rulers to measure health and skill related fitness!

MUSIC - MS. Ditmars

In March, the students will have a performance assessment on the G7 chord. Please remind the students to practice the chords at home with their cardboard fingerboards. The students will be practicing with the fingerboards at home for the rest of the year. Additionally, the students will be starting to learn to play diverse songs on the ukulele, as well. At home, ask your student to show you how to play the C and G7 chords on their fingerboards.



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