



Fourth Grade Newsletter

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P.S. 24 QUEENS

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SUBJECT	TOPIC	SUGGESTIONS FOR SUPPORT AT HOME
Reading	Nonfiction Reading the Weather	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ During December, we will be concluding our study of nonfiction reading through the topic of weather and weather related natural disasters. Students will be collecting and synthesizing within a text and across multiple texts on the same topic. ✓ To support their learning at home, students can research natural disasters on nationalgeographic.com or sign on BenchmarkUniverse.com to access a variety of nonfiction texts by reading level. ✓ Don't forget about the PS 24 Portaportal where you can also find a variety of nonfiction reading texts and articles.
Writing	Persuasive Essay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ During December, students will complete their personal essays by publishing and celebrating and then move into persuasive essay. We will examine the similarities between personal and persuasive essay and use what we have learned in the personal essay unit to enhance our persuasive essays. ✓ At home, children can use http://www.timeforkids.com/homework-helper/a-plus-papers/persuasive-essay to organize their writing.
Math	Division & Fractions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Students will be continuing to explore division through different models as well as working with factors and multiples. You can help your child at home by ensuring they know their multiplication facts and practice their multiples daily. For example: the multiples of 4 are 4, 8, 12, 16, and so on. ✓ We will also be beginning our study of fractions as part of a whole. ✓ At home, students can practice on http://www.fun4thebrain.com/division-html.
Science	Interaction of Air, Water, & Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ During the month of December, students will be learning about the properties of water. They will learn about each part of the water cycle, sequencing it on a Flow Map, and investigating how the water cycle affects the earth. ✓ To support your child at home, you can help them understand important vocabulary such as precipitation, condensation, evaporation and other important science words by studying their science study cards. ✓ You may also wish to explore www.learn360.com to learn more about the properties of water along with your child at home.
Social Studies	Early Explorers & Colonists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ We will be concluding our study of the three colonies by looking at economic, geographic, religious, political and cultural factors that shaped the colony of New Netherlands. We will also be looking at early explorers of New York. ✓ At home students can have fun returning to the colonial times by watching the video: http://www.havefunwithhistory.com/HistorySubjects/colonialAmerica.html

Focus of the Month: Technology

Technology is everywhere and it is developing and changing at an amazing rate! Learning to use and navigate computers is key to your child's education. During the month of December, we will be incorporating technology into our daily studies in many different ways. Not only will we use computers to type our writing, but we will be reading and annotating online books and texts. We will use technology to research, and deepen our understanding of different science and social studies concepts as well as using online manipulatives to enhance our math understanding. In class, students will be practicing their math and reading skills using a variety of websites such as [readtheory](http://readtheory.com), [tenmarks](http://tenmarks.com), and [frontrowd](http://frontrowd.com). Students are encouraged to practice their ELA and Math on sites such as mathplayground.com and literacyhead.com.