

Fourth Grade Newsletter

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SUBJECT	TOPIC	SUGGESTIONS FOR SUPPORT AT HOME
Reading	Historical Fiction/Short Texts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ During the month of January, we will conclude our historical fiction unit where readers took a journey into different time periods by reading historical fiction stories, nonfiction accounts, and examining primary sources to learn all they could about the time period. We will then move into a unit of short texts where students will explore various reading genres throughout this unit using close reading strategies, and searching their texts, collaboratively, for common themes, opinions, and strategies to compare and contrast their texts. ✓ At home, students are encouraged to research the time period they are reading about as well as complete all book club assignments to the best of their ability. ✓ Students can also visit http://www.worldoftales.com, which has a variety of texts for reference.
Writing	Historical Fiction/Literary Essay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ During the month of January, students will be concluding their historical fiction writing unit by revising, editing, and publishing their historical fiction stories. They will conclude the month by writing literary essays based on the class read alouds and independent reading books. ✓ At home you can encourage your children to use double bubble maps to compare character's traits, themes, or author's craft moves found in the texts they are reading. They can also revisit old entries in their writing notebooks to practice revising and editing their writing. ✓ Students can practice their writing online by visiting: http://www.funenglishgames.com/writinggames.html or http://www.jumpstart.com/parents/activities/essay-writing-activities.
Math	Fractions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ You can support your child at home by encouraging them to work with measuring cups to compare and order fractions visually and develop benchmarks. ✓ As always, children can log on to tenmarks.com or cool math games and other such sites to practice fraction mathematics.
Science	Interaction of Air, Water, & Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ During the month of January, students will continue their study of the interactions of air, water, & land, examining the way the land can be changed by the forces of water, air, and human involvement. ✓ You can help your child at home by reviewing the phases of the water cycle and key vocabulary connected with the unit such as weathering, erosion, deposition, precipitation, condensation, and evaporation. ✓ You can also log on websites such as: projectwet.org or scienceforkidsclub.com/erosion.html.
Social Studies	Colonists & The American Revolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ During this unit, students will be immersed in everything colonial to get a better understanding of life in the original 13 colonies. We will be pairing this study up with writing and composing a work of historical fiction based on the colonial time period. ✓ During this study, we will also be examining the causes of the American Revolution. ✓ At home, students can build their understanding of the colonial period by researching and watching videos on sites such as: http://study.com/academy/lesson/13-colonies-colonial-life-economics-politics.html or http://www.historyisfun.org/pdf/colonial-life/Colonial_Life.pdf.

Focus of the Month: Reading

Whether we realize it or not we are reading all the time. We read symbols and signs walking to and from school. We read words and numbers to determine which room is the main office, the nurse, or your child's classroom. We read our teacher's name as well as the lunch menu and school calendar. Reading is everywhere and we must learn to love and cherish reading. This year we have delved deeply into fantastic fiction stories, learned all about science and the weather in our nonfiction unit, and we're finishing out 2016 by incorporating social studies into our reading in our historical fiction unit. We will be moving on to a unit of varied genres reading short texts to improve our reading skills. Some students will be working on comprehension and fluency while others will be looking for the deeper meanings and lessons within their texts. We will be working on skills such as naming and supporting ideas about our characters and recognizing the importance of setting, mood, and tone in our fiction texts. We will be determining the main idea and supporting details by making and supporting claims in our nonfiction texts. We will become masters at recognizing author's craft and purpose while raising our reading levels and growing our independent reading lives. A flier alerting you to your child's current reading level as well as their June goal and suggestions to help them on their way, has gone out. You can support your child at home by bringing them to the library to choose additional texts on their level, and helping them choose a quiet, distraction free place at home to complete their reading nightly.