



# Fourth Grade Newsletter

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| SUBJECT        | TOPIC                               | SUGGESTIONS FOR SUPPORT AT HOME  |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Reading        | Test Sophistication                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ During this month students will be immersed in various genres of text digging deeper into author's purpose and craft. Readers will be using close reading strategies to read and annotate a variety of texts. For each text, students will be answering multiple choice questions, short response, and extended response prompts. Readers will be learning to use process of elimination, key words/phrases, and parts of the question to determine answers to reading passages.</li> <li>✓ To support your child at home you can expose them to different genres of texts. After reading the texts discuss literary elements such as important details, main idea, problem/solution, theme/moral.</li> <li>✓ You can visit the following website for more help <a href="http://www.internet4classrooms.com/skills-4th-langbuilders.htm">www.internet4classrooms.com/skills-4th-langbuilders.htm</a></li> </ul> |
| Writing        | Test Sophistication                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ From February through March, students will be preparing for the ELA writing task by drafting essays. Writers will learn how to quickly plan out their essays for a test. They will be reminded to have a strong thesis, supporting reasons, quotes from the text to support their reasons, and a brief conclusion. They will also be examining what good answers to short response questions look like and what elements their answers should contain.</li> <li>✓ The following website has great supports for all areas of ELA work: <a href="http://www.studyzone.org/testprep/elagrade4.cfm">www.studyzone.org/testprep/elagrade4.cfm</a></li> </ul>   |
| Math           | Fractions                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Continuing our study of fractions will include addition and subtraction of fractions with "like" and "unlike" denominators as well as identifying improper fractions and renaming them into mixed numbers. In addition, students will begin adding and subtracting mixed numbers as well as multiplying fractions using whole numbers and mixed numbers.</li> <li>✓ To support your child at home, introduce them to a recipe and discuss how the fractions change as you double or triple the ingredients.</li> <li>✓ Students are always encouraged to practice math on Compass Learning at home. They can also log on to: <a href="https://www.sheppardsoftware.com/mathgames/menus/fractions.htm">https://www.sheppardsoftware.com/mathgames/menus/fractions.htm</a> for extra practice.</li> </ul>   |
| Science        | Electricity & Magnetism             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Students will learn about the different forms of energy, electricity, and the properties of magnets. They will learn where energy comes from, how people use energy resources, and investigate the difference between static and current electricity.</li> <li>✓ Students will be completing hands- on experiments creating circuits, testing for insulators and conductors, and exploring with magnets to discover their polarity and strength.</li> <li>✓ To support your child's learning you can log onto: <a href="http://www.education.com">www.education.com</a>, <a href="http://www.learn360.com">www.learn360.com</a>, or <a href="http://sciencespot.net/pages/kdzphysics3.html">http://sciencespot.net/pages/kdzphysics3.html</a> for even more exciting information on electricity and magnetism.</li> </ul>   |
| Social Studies | Colonists & The American Revolution | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Students will be examining the struggles and hardships faced while beginning to create a new nation. Students will examine life during this time and the persecution faced under the British rule along with the important documents, which helped free and form our country. We will also examine the groups and individuals who helped strengthen America's democracy as well as the roots of American culture.</li> <li>✓ Use websites such as: <a href="http://www.eyewitnessstohistory.com/colonialplantation.htm">http://www.eyewitnessstohistory.com/colonialplantation.htm</a> to learn more about what life was like in colonial times.</li> </ul>   |

### Focus of the Month: Math

"Fabulous Fractions," is the focus of mathematics during the month of February and beyond. Our students are learning about fractions as part of a whole by using fraction strips, tiles, circles, area models, and linear models. They are making equivalent fractions, showing fractions in lowest terms (simplest form) first by using models, then by using multiplication. We are currently working on creating common denominators and comparing and ordering fractions with unlike denominators. Next, students will learn about adding and subtracting fractions with like denominators. Students will recognize that when the numerator of a fraction is greater than the denominator than, it is an improper fraction and they will explore making these improper fractions into mixed numbers and making a mixed number back into an improper fraction. We will conclude our fraction study by multiplying fractions and relating fractions to decimals. You can support your child at home in simple ways such as, when you cut a piece of fruit ask them, what fraction the fruit is cut into and after eating some what fraction is left? Or ask questions such as, what is the fraction of eggs in half of a dozen eggs?