

Fourth Grade's February News!

Happy February 4th grade families! We are continuing to focus on responsibility for classwork and behaviors. Students are getting gentle reminders to replenish school supplies, keep an organized desk, and practice skills needed to be successful in all academic areas. ALL students need to have headphones or earbuds at school, as we use them in class and are required during state testing.

In reading, we are continuing our study of fiction text with a focus on deeper thinking. We are analyzing characters and how they change across a novel. Students then must ask WHY? and search for causes that led to that change. We are also looking at relationships between characters and how complicated those relationships may be. Theme is also a major part of our current unit as students work to generate a lesson or message as they work their way through their book. Ask your child what novel they are reading! We continue to build our reading stamina daily. Please encourage your child to be reading each night for at least 20 minutes.

This month in writing, we will still be writing essays but now we will transition to a literary essay. Students will use their novels from reading class to write their opinion about topics within their books. Students will again develop a strong essay with a specific structure, including a thesis statement, evidence-supported reasons, transitional phrases, and an introduction and a conclusion. Writers will consider their audience when writing a literary essay by supporting their thesis with relevant, sufficient, and valid evidence.

In math, we are adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers with like denominators. Then we will be extending our fraction knowledge by multiplying fractions. Please encourage your child to continue practicing his/her math facts, by accessing their Dreambox (via CANVAS) or 99math.com accounts. The automaticity of math facts is so important, as we progress through the remaining math units this year.

This month in social studies, students are learning about the 13 colonies which built our nation. We will continue to use our research skills to gather and organize notes.

In science, we are completing our exploration of energy in physical science. We have defined potential and kinetic energy and observed the difference while using Hot Wheels cars and track! Students have also learned about amplitude, wavelength, and frequency when exploring waves.

REMINDERS:

- ❖ Please make sure your child is dressed for the weather, as we will go outside when possible.
- ❖ Remind your child to complete his/her work when out of the classroom, for example, due to an absence or music lessons. Your child is responsible for completing his/her work promptly.
- ❖ **Please continue to keep the Chromebooks charged each night.**
- ❖ We would greatly appreciate each family donating a box of tissues to your child's classroom. Your child will receive a special gift from their teacher.

Upcoming dates:

February 14th: Happy Valentine's Day: Valentine Exchange (paper sent home with details)

February 15th: Baltimore Museum of Industry Field trip (9:15 AM -3:00 PM)

February 29th: 4th Grade's Learn with Me (paper sent home with details)