

Fourth Grade's January News!

Happy New Year to our fourth-grade families! With the start to a new year, we are setting goals, by taking responsibility for work and behaviors, keeping desks and materials organized, building reading and/or writing stamina, practicing math facts, completing homework, and following RFES Pride (Responsible, Friendly, Engaged, and Safe) every day.

In reading, we are deep in our study of fiction text. Students are working in partnerships or small groups to dive deeper into characterization and theme, in a novel of their choosing. We are looking for characters changing over time, characters' struggles, patterns of behavior, and interactions with others to provide clues about the theme. Readers will use text evidence to support their big ideas about texts. We continue to build our reading stamina daily. Please encourage your child to read each night for at least 20 minutes. **Please also remind your child that they have read their novel for homework if they miss class due to band or orchestra so they do not fall behind in reading with their group.**

This month in writing, we are writing persuasive essays in our Literary Essay unit. Students will develop a strong essay with a specific structure, including a thesis statement, evidence-supported reasons, transitional phrases, and an introduction and a conclusion based on the book they are reading in their novel groups. Writers will consider their audience when drafting a persuasive essay by supporting their thesis with relevant, sufficient, and valid evidence that will encourage their readers to agree with them.

In math, we are finding equivalent fractions using area models and number lines. Then students will generate equivalent fractions using multiplication and division. Please encourage your child to continue practicing his/her math facts, by accessing Dreambox, the 99math website, or flash cards. 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 examining the early settlements and colonies which built our nation. We continue to use our research skills to gather and organize notes on specific early colonies in America.

In science, students will begin exploring physical science. Students will learn about energy and how energy is transferred from place to place by sound, light, heat, and electrical current. We are looking forward to an in-school

presentation by APG DEVCOM STEM teacher. He will rotate through our classrooms for a lesson about magnetic cereal.

Reminders as we move forward in 2024:

- The 4th grade Winter Concert is January 17th. You are certainly in for a treat!
- Make sure your child is dressed for the weather, as we will go outside when possible. Arms and legs **MUST BE COVERED** to go outside. Children will be sent to the office if they are not dressed appropriately.
- Remind your child to complete his/her work when out of the classroom, for example, due to an absence or music lessons. Students need to check Canvas resources/calendar for work that is missed.
- **Please continue to keep the Chromebooks charged each night.**

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!.