

Our fourth graders are continuing to build their stamina Here's what we have been working on--

- In **Reading Workshop**, we are up to 35-45 minutes of reading in our classes. This is a major growth from the 25 minutes we started with. Further, our first unit, *Reading Characters: The Heart of the Story*, has revealed how carefully our readers think. They have begun writing Stop and Jots and growing ideas about the characters. Look at the images on this very newsletter to see all our readers doing their best work!
- In Writing Workshop, students have truly and fully dived into the unit The Arc of Story: Writing Realistic Fiction. They have thought deeply about their characters and story arc, and they are now drafting and revising their stories. From two friends who get lost in the woods to a lonely girl who gets made fun of for liking computer games to a boy who messes up his basketball tryout, our writers' story ideas show the deep level of thinking that is happening in our classrooms. Our writers are engaging in the writing process, and we cannot wait to keep reading their work!
- In Math, students have been working through the unit Place Value and Operations with Whole Numbers. This
 unit has been challenging, but our students have been persevering in identifying the value of a digit based
 on its place value, comparing digits in different place values, comparing numbers, rounding numbers,
 adding, and subtracting. Soon, we will move onto multiplication. We look forward to growing as
 mathematicians in 4th grade!
- In Social Studies, students have begun their study of New York State geography. They compared NYC to different vacation spots in NY in a Venn diagram. To do this work, they referred back to text evidence from informational passages we read together. We are seeing that they are ready to engage in the sort of research that our Social Studies curriculum works toward.
- In Science, our study of habitats, populations, niches, producers, consumers, and decomposers is off to a
 great start. Ask your child to explain all those scientific words to you! Our students are doing a careful job of
 using the text and graphic features of an information passage to add to their understanding! We will
 continue our study by looking at food chains and webs next.

Lastly, students will have reading and math homework every night. Please check with them every evening to make sure they worked carefully. Please reach out with any questions or concerns. Thank you! --Ms. Chung, Mr. Harten, Ms. Lamorte, and Ms. Tonnesen



Save the Date!