NOVEMBER 3, 2017



4th Grade Newsletter

Read on to learn about what we've been doing in 4th grade!!



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

- In **Reading Workshop**, we have dived right into our first nonfiction unit of the year—Reading the Weather, Reading the World. In this unit, we have begun learning about how careful readers read to learn. Soon, we will begin researching about extreme weather and natural disasters. We will build our close reading skills as we read various texts about our topic. By reading multiple texts on a topic, our students will practice the reading skill of synthesizing, which means to combine what they learn into a fuller understanding of the topic.
- In **Writing Workshop**, we are well into our opinion unit called Boxes and Bullets: Personal and Persuasive Essays. Our students have shared so much of their thinking in the form of freewriting. From all their ideas, they pulled a thesis statement that they will continue to develop in the remainder of this unit. As they continue growing as essayists, our students will learn how to organize and form strong essays that support the thesis with evidence. Knowing how to write a solid essay is an important skill, and our writers have embraced this challenge.
- In **Math**, students are finishing up the chapter *Multiply by 1-Digit Numbers*. In this unit, our students learned how to multiply a number up to 4-digits by a 1-digit number. They have become true experts at using the area model and expanded form to tackle these challenging multiplication problems. Our next unit—*Multiply 2-Digit Numbers*—will continue to build upon students' understanding of the area model to multiply a 2-digit number by a 2-digit number. *Multiplication facts are very important in 4th grade, so please practice multiplication facts with your children!*
- In **Social Studies**, students are finishing up the unit The Geography of New York State. Next, we will begin the unit Native Americans: First Inhabitants of New York State. This is an exciting unit that pushes students to grow as skilled researchers who are able to use multiple resources to build their knowledge on a topic.
- In **Science**, we are ready to begin our study of *Plants and Animals*. In this unit, we will begin by learning all about plant structures, reproduction, and life cycles. Then, we will move into animal life cycles, reproduction, and adaptations. Animal lovers should be extra excited for this unit!

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!