



4/5-308 Newsletter

Important Reminder

March 29-April 1: Easter Weekend: Schools closed

April 10: School closed for Eid al-Fitr

April 11-12: NYS ELA test for grades 3-5

April 22-30: Spring Recess: Schools closed

May 7 & 8: NYS Math test for grades 3-5

From Phonics to Reading

We will continue to work in our rotations and build on our skills we have been learning. Students will work with our Spire and Benchmark curriculums in sounding out word parts and building their knowledge in the different sounds vowels make within different words.

Leader in Me

This month we are reading *How Full Is Your Bucket* and *The Good Egg* by Jory John. We will be practicing Habit 7 *Sharpen the Saw*.



Readers Workshop

Test Prep

In this unit, students will learn how to:

- Analyze parts of a story in relation to the whole text.
- Determine themes of various texts, as well as compare and contrast story elements and themes.
- Identify author's perspective/point of view
- Identify the main idea of nonfiction texts
- Determine the text structure and how to use that to learn more about a topic
- Determine the meaning of unknown words using context clues or root words

Writers Workshop

Test Prep

In this unit, students will learn how to:

- Respond to prompts and questions about a text.
- Write about what they are reading.
- Write compare and contrast essays about story elements
- Clearly state their opinion
- Note-taking
- Support their thinking using text evidence

Math

What have we learned this year? This is exactly what we will be focusing on during math this month! Getting ourselves prepared to take the NYS mathematics test. We will be reviewing all concepts, strategies, and material taught and prepare your children to take this exam.

Science

Grade 4: How can a mother dolphin and her calf communicate underwater when they cannot see each other? How can humans use patterns to communicate? Working in their role as marine scientists, students figure out how mother dolphins communicate with their calves. They write a series of scientific explanations with diagrams to demonstrate their growing understanding of how sound waves travel. Then they apply what they've learned about waves, energy, and patterns in communication to figure out how to create patterns that can communicate information over distances, transferring data from one place to another.

Grade 5: What happens when two substances are mixed together? In the role of food scientists working for Good Food Production, Inc., students are introduced to the ideas that all matter is made of particles too small to see and that each different substance is made of particles (molecules) that are unique. Students are then challenged to solve two problems: One problem requires them to separate a mixture, and the other problem requires them to make unmixable substances mix. Students are challenged to use the particulate model of matter to explain their work to the president of the company. In doing so, students figure out that the properties of materials are related to the properties of the nanoparticles that make up those materials.

Home Connection

- **Help your child talk about the books they are reading and to give text evidence.**
- **Help your child explore fractions**
 - Have your child think about fractions while cooking! Make a cake together and talk about the different measurements. Order a pizza pie and talk about what fraction of the pizza is left over. Compare which fractions are bigger or smaller!
- **Build literacy skills through simple activities at home and in the car.**
 - Read every night!
 - Practice sight words each night by creating fun and interactive games. (look for words in the newspaper/magazines; matching game, etc.)
 - Ask your child about books they are reading at home. Ask them about the characters, problem, and solution.
 - Have your child build their reading stamina by building on time spent reading.

