

FOURTH GRADE NEWSLETTER

Issue: November 2018 Website: PS173Q.org Twitter: @PS173Q 4th Grade Teachers

Here is some fourth grade information for the month of November.

Expectations: Read your child's homework assignment in their notebook and sign the notebook when the assignment is completed EVERY NIGHT. Help with your child's homework. Sign the reading log EVERY NIGHT. Check and empty the take home folder of notices EVERY DAY!



SOCIAL STUDIES

The history of New York is our focus in fourth grade. In November we will finish studying the **geography of New York**. We will also be focusing on **Native Americans** in New York. We will look at the natural resources they used, their culture and traditions, and how they contributed to the development of New York and the United States. Social Studies is another time during our busy day where we learn non-fiction reading strategies to help us understand the information. Our children will learn how to take that information and put it into graphic organizers that will help them retain the concepts they learn.

READING WORKSHOP

This month we will begin our Non-Fiction unit. During this unit, students will be able to identify the main idea and find key details to support the main idea. We will start using this skill with just a chunk or part of the text. Then we will move on to the main idea of the whole article. The students will then be able to summarize the article. We will also look closely into text features, text structure, vocabulary and author's craft. We would like to remind parents to check your child's Reading Log each night and encourage your child to apply the reading strategies that they've learned in class.

SCIENCE

Energy Conversions: In the Energy Conversions unit, students take on the role of systems engineers for Ergstown, a fictional town that experiences frequent blackouts, the anchor phenomenon for the unit. Throughout the unit, they explore reasons why an electrical system may fail. Through firsthand experiences, discourse, reading, writing, and engaging with a digital simulation, students make discoveries about the way electrical systems work. Then, students apply what they have learned as they choose new energy sources and energy converters for the town, using evidence to explain why their choices will make the electrical system more reliable. As they work to solve the problem of blackouts in Ergstown, students will use and construct devices that convert energy from one form to another, build an understanding of the electrical system, and learn to identify energy forms all around them.

WRITING WORKSHOP



For the month of November, students will be writing personal essays about people, places, objects or activities that are important to them. The students will form an idea (thesis) and then support it with reasons. After planning with boxes and bullets, they will then be able to form a structured essay in which each paragraph gives examples to support their idea (thesis.)



MATH



For the month of November, our children will work on **Topics 4 and 5** in Envisions 2.0. These topics focus on using strategies and properties to multiply by 2-digit numbers, and using strategies and properties to divide by 1-digit numbers. The children will learn to tackle word problems without giving up! Please help your children with their homework each night!

IMPORTANT DATES

November 6th: Election Day- no school for students
November 8th: PTA meeting at 6:30 Safety Town Hall Meeting
November 11th: Veteran's Day Observed- School closed
November 13th: Scholastic Book Fair begins
November 15th: Parent/Teacher Conferences-11:20 dismissal
November 20th: Photo make-up day
November 22nd: Thanksgiving- no school on the 22nd and Friday the 23rd
November 27th: Giving Thanks for Grandparents Day IDNYC event-8:30am

