

FOURTH GRADE NEWSLETTER

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

We can't believe we are approaching the end of 2018 already! Please find below our updates for the month of December.

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!



Please help your child master their basic multiplication facts so they can be ready to tackle the division unit!

SOCIAL STUDIES

We will be beginning the "Native Americans: First Inhabitants of New York State" unit. Students will learn about what makes a society complex.

In this unit, we will focus on:

- New York City Then and Now
- The roles, responsibilities, and power defined in Native American cultures.
- The roles, responsibilities, and power defined in the Native American government.

READING WORKSHOP

Non-Fiction: For the month of December, students will continue to read non-fiction texts. They will continue to focus on finding the main idea and supporting details, summarizing and synthesizing information, as well as identifying the different structures of text as they read to learn. During this time, your children will continue to read fiction books at home, applying reading strategies learned in the previous units. Please continue to have your child make jots to keep track of their ideas.

WRITING WORKSHOP



Persuasive Essay Writing: Students will take what they learned in personal essays to write persuasive essays. Students will choose a topic they feel strongly about to convince their reader of their viewpoint through their essays. They will work on writing strong and long essays by including an introduction, strong reasons and details, and a conclusion to support their thesis statement. After drafting, students will learn revision and editing strategies to make their writing pieces appealing to their readers. Finally, we will end the unit with publishing the piece and celebrating their hard work!

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.



MATH



We will be studying concepts from Topics 5 and 6.

In Topic 5 students will learn to:

- Find quotients
- Estimate quotients
- Interpret remainders

In Topic 6 students will learn to:

- Solve word problems using the skills developed involving multi-digit addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.

IMPORTANT DATES



December 7: Holiday shop

December 14: E-board meeting

December 20: PTA meeting/Ballroom Dancing Performance

December 21: PTA staff lunch & Ugly Sweater Day for everyone

December 24-January 1-Winter recess (schools closed)

Remember to check our school website and twitter account for updates!

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