

FOURTH GRADE NEWSLETTER

Issue: January 2019 Website: PS173Q.org Twitter: @PS173Q 4th Grade Teachers

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

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!

READING WORKSHOP



For the month of January, students will be in Interpretation Book Clubs. They will be focusing on doing a lot of interpretation work on mood, critical choices characters make, point of view, and symbolism. 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. Remember to sign their Reading Logs every night!

WRITING WORKSHOP



For the month of January, students will be writing literary essays. We will be writing about fiction. Children will choose to focus on either life lessons, character traits, character change or relationships from our books. The students will then come up with a theory and write an essay using skills from their previous essay units.



MATH



For the month of January, our children will work on **Topics 6 and 7** in Envisions 2.0. These topics focus on using operations with whole numbers to solve problems, and working with factors and multiples.

The children will learn to tackle word problems without giving up! Please help your children with their homework each night!

SOCIAL STUDIES

New York is our focus in fourth grade. In January, we will continue focusing on **Native Americans** in New York. We will look at how Native American cultures in New York organized their families and communities, how roles, responsibilities, and power were defined in the Native American government, and how Native American cultures influence and 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.

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.

IMPORTANT DATES

January 1st: New Years Day- no school for students
January 2nd: School resumes
January 4th: E-Board Meeting
January 7th: Kids Care Club Food Bank NYC Food Drive begins
January 17th: PTA Meeting
January 21st: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day – No school
January 25th: Last day of food drive

