

# FOURTH GRADE NEWSLETTER

Issue: September/October 2018 Website: PS173Q.org Twitter: @PS173Q 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers

Welcome back to an exciting new school year! Here is some fourth grade information for the months of September and October! We are reinforcing rules and routines. We dive into learning on the first day of school!

**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. September and October focuses on studying the **geography of New York**, including mountains, lakes, rivers, etc. We will look at maps of New York and understand its location in 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

**Understanding Characters:** Our children will begin the school year making new reading goals for themselves to help them become strong readers and independent thinkers. Right from the start, the students will work on Common Core standards focusing on comprehension strategies such as monitoring for sense, envisioning, and inferring. We will work towards understanding characters' traits, motivations, and struggles. Please take a look in their reading notebooks for evidence of their thinking! We will spend the first few weeks assessing the children so that they are reading just right books.

## WRITING WORKSHOP



**Realistic Fiction Writing:** We will begin our writing unit by giving our children a pre-assessment to see what writing skills they have maintained since third grade. Then, we will quickly move into the writing process with our first unit: narrative writing. The students will use past strategies, as well as learn new ones to generate ideas for realistic stories. We will teach the children to nurture their writing ideas with lots of detail including dialogue, thoughts, and small actions. After drafting, the 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!



## MATH



For the months of September and October, our children will work on **Topics 1 and 2** in Envisions 2.0. These topics focus on place value, number relationships, addition and subtraction, and number comparisons, and mental math. The children will learn to tackle word problems without giving up! Please help your children with their homework each night!

## 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

- September 27:** Ballroom Dance begins
- September 27:** Parent Recruitment Info Meeting for PS 173 families interested in Cub Scouts (boys Gr 1-5) & Girl Scouts (girls Gr 1-5) 4:30 pm in Auditorium
- October 3:** Fall Picture Day
- October 5:** PTA E-Board 8:15 am and Gr 3-5 Assembly
- October 8:** Columbus Day NO SCHOOL
- October 11:** PTA Meeting 6:30 pm
- October 15:** Band classes begin
- October 18:** PS 173's 70th Anniversary Celebration 7pm
- October 19:** PTA Bake Sale
- October 20:** It's My Park Day
- October 24:** Final Collection date for PTA Candy Sale
- October 26:** Halloween Dances
- October 29:** Staff Pumpkin Carving Contest
- October 31:** March of Dimes Costume Walk

