

Grade 4 Curriculum Corner~ January 16, 2020

Language Arts:

What We're Learning Now and Where We are Going:

Reading: We have recently concluded work on the text structures Cause and Effect and Compare and Contrast. Next, we will work to expand the students' understanding of how text is constructed by identifying basic organization structures including chronological and problem solving text structures. We will also use compare and contrast skills to describe similarities and differences in focus and information between firsthand and secondhand accounts of the same event or topic.

Writing: We are continuing to work on expository (informational) writing. The students are analyzing expository articles by identifying introduction and conclusion paragraphs, and main ideas paragraphs with supporting details. The students will take these skills and use them to write their own brief research articles.

How to Help: Keep on having your student read at least 20 minutes per night. Encourage your child to read non-fiction articles from newspapers, magazines, and on-line to gain experience reading expository writing. As he or she gets older, their reading focus will be on a higher percentage of non-fiction.

Math:

What We're Learning Now and Where We're Going Next:

Currently in math, students just completed their second unit, Operations: Multiplication, Division, and Algebraic Thinking. Our unit ended with students creating equations with a variable to solve multi-step word problems. This is an exciting point in our school year. Students are in the midst of taking their second I-Ready math diagnostic. Soon after, students will be able to track their progress towards their end of the year goal that they set at the beginning of the year. In addition, students will be taking their mid-year problem solving assessment in the coming weeks to show their progress as mathematicians. Lessons in our upcoming unit will focus a lot on multiplication. We will be delving into multiplying

multi-digit numbers by a one-digit number, multiplying two-digit by two-digit numbers, and using multiplication to convert measurements.

How to Help:

Students can access their I-ready dashboard from home by logging into their school google account through www.clever.com. On I-Ready, they can access learning games. Games to focus on are: Hungry Fish, Cupcake, or Pizza. In addition, students can access their Freckle accounts for fact practice and various adaptive practice lessons.

Social Studies:

What We're Learning Now and Where We're Going Next:

In Social Studies, students started exploring the Southwest region. They are currently working in small groups to create an E-Book about the region's history, climate, land, economy, natural resources and landmarks.

Next, they will be creating a fan book with each state in the Southwest. The fan book will contain information specific to each state.

How to Help:

Learn together about the history and geography of your community, state, and country. Now is a great time to purchase a globe, atlas, or wall map for your home if you do not already have one. Refer to these frequently as you discuss history and current events. Students can practice the locations of the southwest states by going to <https://www.seterra.com/>.

Science:

What We're Learning Now and Where We're Going Next:

In Science, students finished up a unit on the human machine. For the last lesson in this unit, your child learned about the brain's role in receiving information from the senses, processing that information, and then controlling the body's muscles to enable movement. We played a game in which we tested our reflexes. The fact that our reflexes always have a slight delay helped your child to see that there are real pathways (nerves) on which messages from the brain have to travel.

Next, we will be starting a unit on sound, waves, & communication. This unit will help students develop the idea that sound is an actual thing, a wave of vibrations traveling through the air. Equipped with this understanding, students will be able to begin to make sense of how sound and music work.

How to Help:

One thing you can do to support your child's curiosity is to play a round of the "reflex" game together at home. All you need is a ruler or cooking spoon—ask your child to explain the rules of the game to you. Ask your child about the "dollar bill" challenge too! As you play these games, there's an opportunity for a great discussion about how the brain requires time to send a message to your fingers.

Music:

What We're Learning Now and Where We're Going Next:

In their General Music classes, fourth graders have just begun their Ukulele Unit, in which they will be learning how to play one, two, and three chord accompaniment. Our chorus students are beginning to explore different vocal articulations, and our beginning band students have just learned how to read and play duets in order to perform songs with two parts!

How to Help:

Establishing a practicing routine at home and a dedicated practice time each day will help your child tremendously with their musical growth. Listening to and interacting with music at home and at performance venues will continue to build the musical skills we work on at school, as well as increase your child's engagement in the performing arts!

Physical Education:

What We're Learning Now and Where We're Going Next:

At the moment in Physical Education classes we are finishing up our volleyball unit, in this unit we focused on three basic skills; bump, set and serve of the ball. As always we strive to be a ready and willing team player. In the weeks to follow we are moving onto a floorball unit (Hockey). We will be

focusing on the proper way to hold the stick and move the ball around the floor with confidence. This is also a team sport which requires one to focus and be ready.

At the end of the month, keep an eye out for information on our annual HOOPS FOR HEART FUNDRAISER! I look forward to another successful campaign.

How to Help:

I encourage you and your child to stay as active as possible during these cold winter months. Have them get out and play in the snow or get involved with some sort of after school activity. During WIN I give them all different and creative ways to work out.

Art:

What We're Learning Now and Where We're Going Next:

Students are working on understanding art vocabulary and being able to use it when talking about art. They are working toward mastery of ...

- Color
- Shape
- Form
- Line
- Texture
- Space
- Value.

Students will be completing various projects depicting these important building blocks of art.

How to Help:

Notice the art around you! It's in the clothes you wear, the way you style your hair, the sunglasses you chose to wear today, the jewelry twinkling on your wrist. Someone designed the things you see everyday...as well as the art on museum walls. Art is everywhere.