

# The Fantastic Four

Mrs. Cicale, Ms. Komar, Ms. Dalton, and Mr. G

Parent Newsletter – Issue 4 – December 2012

## WHAT ARE WE STUDYING?

### Literacy:

**Reading** - We will be continuing our Nonfiction Workshop. Students will continue to read and respond to various expository nonfiction texts.

**\*Please remember to provide your child with ample nonfiction articles, books, etc. so that they may practice the skills learned in class at home.**

**Word Study** - We are continuing to practice spelling patterns in the classroom. We are also continuing to use our Word a Day Program to build our vocabulary. We have also implemented a content-based vocabulary program to reinforce our skills in the areas of Social Studies and Mathematics.

**Writing Workshop** - Students are researching a nonfiction topic that they selected in class. They are organizing the information they find in their nonfiction book into categories that will help them begin drafting their feature articles.

**\*Please allow your child to use the internet in order to research additional articles related to their topic, as this will help them during the writing process..**

### Math:

This month students will study concepts in Unit Four, which will focus on decimals and their uses, as well as metric units of length. Some of the skills we will address are decimal place value, comparing and ordering decimals, estimating with decimals, decimal addition and subtraction, and using decimals to convert metric units of length.

**\*Tip: Although Unit Three is complete, please continue to study the multiplication times tables nightly with your child, as students will need instant recall of these facts for future use.**

### Social Studies:

We will continue Three Worlds Meet. Chapter 3 will be completed this month. The main focuses of Chapter 3 are the first explorers and the development of colonies. We will take a close look at life in the Dutch colony of New Amsterdam. We will also examine life in New York colony under English rule.

### Science:

This month Mrs. Ferrezza's students will be learning about the water cycle, evaporation, condensation, and water tension. They will also learn how water reacts on different surfaces.

from our Theory Time for Fourth Grade books unit two. They will also be learning new songs of winter to expand our current repertoire.

**Ms. LaMorte's** classes are working with the following aspects of music: rhythm reading with sixteenth notes; learning to play low D and high C on the recorder with two pieces of music.

**Ms. Granatelli's** classes are exploring the technique of collage and works of art created by Henri Matisse. Taking their inspiration from nature, using colors and textures found in magazines, scissors, glue, and their imagination, students will create expressive and interesting collages.

## \*IMPORTANT DATES

Week of 12/3 - Chapter 3 Social Studies Test

Week of 12/17 - Chapter 4 Math Test - Tentative Date

12/18 - Holiday Workshop - More info to come

12/24/12 - 1/1/13 - Holiday Break - School closed - School resumes on January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## News/Information/Tips/Reminders

- Please note that in an attempt to increase the students' stamina in reading, the amount of minutes for homework reading has increased. The new schedule is as follows:  
--Monday, Wednesday, and Friday - Read for 40 minutes and write a response.  
--Tuesday and Thursday - Read for 40 minutes and sign a reading log.

## A Note From Ms. O'Donnell

*"Check out our new website [www.petridesschool.com](http://www.petridesschool.com) to get up-to-date information on our elementary school."*

Happy  
Holidays!

## Message from Teachers

*"We would like to thank all of the fourth grade parents for your generous donations to the members of our community that were impacted by Hurricane Sandy. We wish you a happy and healthy holiday season."*

-Mrs. Cicale, Ms. Komar, Ms. Dalton, and Mr. G



## What's New in the Arts?

**Mr. Cintula's** general music classes are working on basic music theory

