



# The Fantastic Four

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

Parent Newsletter – Issue 5 – January 2013

## WHAT ARE WE STUDYING?

### Literacy:

**Reading** - We will be wrapping up our study of informational nonfiction texts. Students will be presenting the information they learned in the form of a five minute newscast that will be videotaped. In addition, we will be starting our Narrative Nonfiction Unit in which students will be participating in book clubs based on their reading level. They will also be reading an autobiography at home to reinforce the skills learned in reading workshop. This will allow students to compare and contrast informational nonfiction to narrative nonfiction.

**Word Study** - We are continuing to practice our spelling skills in class. We are also continuing to use our Word a Day Program and our Content Based Skill Assessment to build our vocabulary.

**Writing Workshop** - Students will be publishing their feature articles on a topic. They will use the information in these articles to write their newscast presentation. Next up, students will be writing a persuasive essay based on the information gathered in their narrative nonfiction book clubs.

### Math:

This month, students will study concepts in unit 5. Unit 5 begins with two lessons that focus on extending multiplication skills, in preparation for the introduction of the partial products and lattice methods of multiplication. Unit 5 also emphasizes reading, writing, and using large numbers, including the use of powers of 10 to represent large numbers.

### Social Studies:

We will continue our work in Chapter 4 this month. The main focus of Chapter 4 are the thirteen colonies: How colonies were started, the characteristics of the colonies, and a focus on what life was like for those living in the New York Colony. We will also begin Chapter 5 after our unit assessment. The main focus of Chapter 5 is the American Revolution: How the colonists resisted English rule and the role of New York in the Revolutionary War.

### Science:

This month Mrs. Ferrezza's students are learning about the properties of water. They are learning about evaporation, condensation, and measuring the volume of liquids.

## What's New in the Arts?

**Class 420** will be switching to music with Ms. LaMorte. Tonal and rhythm assessments will be administered.

**Class 421** will be switching to music with Mr. Cintula. Classes are working on basic music theory from our Theory Time for Fourth Grade book Unit 3.

**Class 422** will be switching to art with Mrs. Granatelli. Please refer to handout with the necessary supplies. Students will begin this term with drawing and painting their self-portrait.

## \*IMPORTANT DATES

Week of 1/14 – Chapter 4 Social Studies Test and Unit 5 Math Test

Week of 1/14 – 1/18 – ELA task

Week of 1/21 – 1/25 – Nonfiction presentations (more information to come)

1/21 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day – School closed

1/29 – Parents as Partners – Text Complexity – 8:15 a.m.

## News/Information/Tips/Reminders

- Please note that our reading response homework will change this month. Each week students will be assigned a short, rigorous passage to read. Throughout the week, assignments will be given to help students learn to analyze and evaluate the given text.
- Stay tuned! We will be having a parent workshop in which you will be invited to see your child's videotaped newscast about their nonfiction topic. More information will follow on an exact date and time.
- If you have not already done so, please also try to obtain an autobiography on your child's level. Remember that an autobiography must be written by the actual person about their life, and not by an outside author.

### Message from Teachers

*“We hope you all had a Happy New Year! As we start the new year, we look forward to continuing our partnership to support the fourth grade students as they prepare for their state exams.”*

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



### A Note From Ms. O'Donnell

*“Happy New Year!  
Check out [www.petridesschool.com](http://www.petridesschool.com)  
for up-do-date information.”*



