



The Fantastic Fourth Grade

Ms. Dalton, Ms. Cicale, Ms. Hession,
Ms. Meduri, Ms. A. Bollini, Ms. Occhipinti and Ms. Duffy



Parent Newsletter – December 2019

WHAT ARE WE STUDYING?

Literacy:

Reading – We are going to be finishing the book Wonder by RJ Palacio. The students will continue to work on identifying themes and supportive evidence for their literacy essay. Students are gathering evidence by closely analyzing the text, including the characters and their perspectives (point of view). This evidence will be used to support the claim they select from their collection of themes throughout the text.

Writing – Writers will be completing their literary essays based on the themes they have identified in the novel Wonder. Students will be continuing their work within small teams to closely read and interpret specific moments in the text. Students will continue to locate supportive evidence for their essays. The groups will be recording their evidence and focusing in on specific scenes and dialogue in the book.

Math:

We will continue using various strategies while learning multi-digit multiplication and division in Module 3. Students will use place value understanding and visual representations to solve problems. We will be focusing on developing students' ability to reason with the methods and models chosen to solve problems with multi-digit factors and dividends.

Science:

Students will continue to learn about simple machines and they will discover that friction is a force that resists motion.

Social Studies:

We are beginning the second unit of our Social Studies curriculum. Students will be studying how the exploration and settlement of the New York area led to interaction among diverse peoples. Students will learn how the arrival of Europeans in New York affected the ways of life of Native Americans there.

What's New in Performing Arts?

Mr. Cintula: Fourth grade is working from our new Music Studio online curriculum by McGraw Hill. They are learning a song called "Step Into The Spotlight" which incorporates keeping the steady beat, counting in groups of sixteen to keep up with choreography changes and continuing to sing the song. We are continuing work on quarter, eighth and sixteenth note groupings.

Ms. Eliot: Students will learn about the different instruments in an orchestra and explore the elements of music.

Ms. Granatelli: During the month of December, students will learn about sculpture and how to work with modeling clay. All art materials are provided in class.

***Upon returning from December's Holiday break, 4th grade will be changing their performing arts class.**

Ms. LaGrotta (334): During dance class in December, fourth grade classes will be continuing identifying and demonstrating isolated dance moves of various body parts, locomotor and non-locomotor movements, and dancing with different tempos and rhythms.

*IMPORTANT DATES

12/6 – Holiday Fair

12/6 – Pretzel Day

12/16 – "Frozen" Sing-a-Long, 9:00am – Wear your best Elsa/Anna/Olaf costumes!

12/23-1/1/20 – Winter Recess – School resumes on 1/2/20

News/Information/Tips/Reminders

- Please continue to review your child's agenda book/homework notebook each night.
- Please continue to review multiplication and division tables daily.
- Students will be assessed on their times tables regularly.
- Clean out the RED Homework folder after each Module Task. Save all Math materials as resources for the NYS Math test.

"Have a Wonderful Holiday and a Happy and Healthy New Year!"

*-Ms. Dalton, Ms. Cicale, Ms. Hession, Ms. Meduri,
Ms. A. Bollini, Ms. Occhipinti and Ms. Duffy*



PTA News

The PTA would like to give a big Thank you to all those who came to our "Bowling With the Panthers" event! It was so much fun! A special shout out to the teachers and staff that came along with their families to make this event extra special!

Friday, December 6th is our Pretzels for Panthers day! Only \$1 for a delicious pretzel!

Also Friday, December 6th is our Holiday Fair, where parents are also invited along for some fun holiday shopping with their little ones! Please see teacher class times for a schedule.

David & Buster's power play cards are on sale now! A great gift idea your loved ones can use during the holiday week off and support our school!

Shop with a smile on amazon and proceeds will go directly to our Petrides PTA! Please use smile.amazon.com select Michael J. Petrides in the drop down box and amazon will give 0.5% of your purchase as a donation to our PTA (prices are exactly the same!)

We hope that you can join us for our next PTA meeting on Wednesday, December 18th at 6:30pm.

A Note From Ms. Ponzi

Dear Families,

It was so nice to see so many of you attend our Parent Teacher Conferences last month. Communication and collaboration between families and school is extremely beneficial for the success of our students, so we THANK YOU!

I encourage and appreciate your continued support at upcoming Parents as Partners events. It was so nice to see parents up at school this past month to assist at workshops in the classroom, shop at the book fair, and enjoy SING! I look forward to seeing you again soon!

Please continue to dress your child appropriately for the changing weather. We are continuing to send children outside for recess and physical education class when the weather permits.

As we approach the holiday season, let us remember the importance of family, friends, and fun! I wish you and your families a very Happy and Healthy holiday season with your loved ones.

Sincerely,
Ms. Ponzi

